

Tomorrow

Examination
James Fenton joins *The Times* critics with a review of V. S. Naipaul's new book of travels in search of himself, *Finding the Centre*. Also Fiona MacCarthy on *The Weaker Vessel*, a study of Woman's Lot in Seventeenth Century England, by Antonia Fraser.

Exclamation
The Times Profile: David Storey and his surprising new novel, *Present Times*.

Conversation
We report on the meeting at Chequers between Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany.



Preparation
Investing for the future: a four-page Special Report on pensions, including tax benefits, new schemes, and pitfalls.

4,000 jobs to go at BR workshops

British Rail Engineering confirmed 4,000 redundancies spread over the next three years. The Swindon workshops are almost certain to close with 2,300 jobs lost, but that decision will be delayed for two years. However 900 jobs in Glasgow and 500 in Derby will go because of falling orders from British Rail.

Threat to post

The Post Office faces disruption because of a call for industrial action by the main union, representing 160,000 workers, who have rejected a 4 per cent pay offer.

Exam reform

Sir Keith Joseph unfolded plans for advanced supplementary, or AS level, examinations in a reform aimed at widening sixth form studies.



Bogotá murder

Colombia declared a state of siege after the Justice Minister was assassinated in Bogotá by gunmen believed to have been hired by drug racketeers.

Hotel TV curb

Hotels are to lose the privilege of having all their television sets covered by one licence. New regulations may allow fewer than five sets per licence.

Speeding it up

John Woodcock defends the minimum overs ruling introduced by the Test and County Cricket Board to speed up play in county matches.

Leader page 11

Letters: Our diplomatic immunity, from Mr Peter Foster, and others; pit strike, from the Archbishop of York; rural eldshy, from Mr Ian Gow, MP.

Features, pages 8-10

Len Murray, rejected realist; Bernard Levin on a liberty the NCCL prefers to ignore; a town hall role we overlook, by Robin Cook. Spectrum: top of the poetry pop. Wednesday Page: the perils of mixed marriage in Northern Ireland.

Obituary, page 12

Lord Adeane; Sylvia Ashton-Warner.

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Outraged MPs hear of Libyan murder suspects' immunity

● The police have narrowed down the murderer of WPC Yvonne Fletcher to two people occupying the Libyan People's Bureau on April 17.
● Guns, ammunition and the remnants of an extensive arsenal were found by the police while searching the bureau.
● Mrs Thatcher has ordered an internal review by the Cabinet Office of the Government's conduct immediately before the shooting.
● St James's Square returned to normal as the blue tarpanis which have blocked the square came down.

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, disclosed yesterday to a House of Commons united in outrage and a sense of importance that the police believed that one of two occupants of the Libyan People's Bureau in London murdered Woman Constable Yvonne Fletcher.

However, they did not have the evidence to sustain a prosecution; and that in any case both suspects had diplomatic immunity.

He was heard in grim silence as he described the evidence of murder, including a spent cartridge case found in the room from which the gun was fired.

For two hours Mr Brittan, the Prime Minister, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, took turns to try to satisfy MPs that everything possible had been done to forestall the violence in St James's Square on April 17 and to guard against a repetition. They did not wholly succeed on either count.

For her part, Mrs Margaret Thatcher had already announced an internal review, directed from the Cabinet Office, of the Government's conduct immediately before the shooting from the bureau, including the assessment of intelligence reports.

But, in a letter to Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, she refused his

Arms cache yields clue to bureau gunman's identity

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A police search of the Libyan People's Bureau in London yesterday uncovered an array of arms, ammunition, and equipment indicating the remnants of an extensive arsenal which vanished in diplomatic baggage last week.

Forensic scientists also found evidence that a weapon had recently been fired from a window on the first floor of the building in St James's Square. They are conducting tests on a 9mm cartridge case found near the window. It is thought to have come from the gun which killed WPC Yvonne Fletcher and wounded 11 others two weeks ago.

Part of the equipment found during the detailed search, which started after a check showed the building was clear of booby traps, included magazines and pistol grips for two 9mm Sterling sub-machine guns. Detectives believe one of the Sterlings may have been the murder weapon.

The weapons were described as three Colt Cobras, a Smith and Wesson .32, a Browning self-loading pistol and a Beretta pistol. After the finds were announced, Commander William Hacksley, head of Scotland Yard's squad, said it was possible more weapons would be uncovered in a search that could take days.

350,000 teachers upset classes

By Colin Hughes

Most of the 24,000 schools in England and Wales were disrupted yesterday by industrial action by around 350,000 teachers.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, speaking in the Commons, effectively ruled out arbitration and accused the teachers of being "irresponsible and unprofessional".

The immediate effects of sanctions by the two largest teachers' unions over this year's 4.5 per cent pay offer and the employers' refusal to agree to arbitration, varied between individual schools and local education authorities.

In rural areas some schools were forced to close for a half day or send large numbers of children home at lunchtime. Cancellation of school lunches, classes, and extra-curricular activities, was widespread throughout the 104 education authorities.

The first sanctions to bite are the refusal to supervise pupils at lunchtime and refusal to cover for absent colleagues. In London the lunch sanction led many large comprehensives to cancel school lunches altogether, or serve only free school meals.

Other authorities, including Oxford and Surrey, said the good weather was making it easier to release children at lunchtime. Pupils were making do with sandwiches or takeaway meals. In Cleveland 40,000 of the 70,000 pupils went without school meals, but classes were unaffected.

Some schools are sending home large groups of pupils. Holland Park Comprehensive in west London, for example, sent home a complete year group yesterday, and another, Kidbrooke, in south-east London, has decided to send 100 pupils a day home because of teachers' refusal to cover.

At least five London schools are switching to an extended "Continental day", with pupils going home at 1.30pm, missing lunch.

Pay talks broke up in deadlock on Monday, and the

Lobbying begins for new general secretary

Len Murray to retire from TUC this year

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Mr Len Murray will today formally announce that he is to quit his post as general secretary of the TUC three years before he reaches retiring age, and the political battle to choose his successor has already begun.

Congress House disclosed last night that Mr Murray, aged 61, will go in September, although no reason for his departure was given. In contacts with TUC heads of departments last week, he indicated that poor health was the main factor, but his moderate policies have come under sharp fire in recent months.

The post has always been filled from within the TUC by "Buggins's Law", rule that the most senior deputy takes over the top job. However, the contest for a new general secretary is regarded as wide open and lobbying is under way.

The names of Mr Gavin Laird, aged 51, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and Mr Alastair Graham, aged 41, leader of the Civil and Public Services Association, are being mentioned as likely candidates among centre-right TUC politicians. Another outside prospect is Mr Alex Ferry, aged 53, general secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, who was tipped at the post by Mr Jim Mortimer for general secretaryship of the Labour Party.

The strongest candidates from within the TUC bureaucracy are thought to be Mr Ken Graham, aged 61, assistant general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, aged 51, deputy general secretary, and Mr David Lea, aged 46, also assistant general

secretary and, like Mr Murray, a former head of the TUC Economic Department.

But there is a strong feeling among union leaders that there will be a break with the tradition that the job is given to an "inside man". Union leaders are already being canvassed, among them Mr Clive Jenkins of the white-collar ASTMS, who insisted: "Irrevocably I am not a candidate. I like it here."

The time-table for electing a successor lays down a July 16 deadline for nominations. Only affiliated unions may nominate, and there has never been a contested election in the TUC's 16-year history.

Some sources were suggesting last night that Mr Murray had timed his unexpected announcement to "bounce" the unions into picking Mr Lea, who is regarded as his favourite son in the contest. Others, however, point to recent disagreements between the general secretary and some key general council committees as supporting reasons for poor health for his decision.

Mr Murray suffered a mild heart attack in June, 1976, but has not appeared to be ill in recent months. He was his usual acerbic self with the media at post-general council briefings.

In the wake of Mr Neil Kinnock's election as leader of the Labour Party, some union leaders are looking for a similar "regeneration jump" to give the TUC a more modern image. If they get their way, the post will be filled by an up-and-coming trade union official who is not associated in the public mind with disputes that have tarnished the Labour movement.

The contenders, page 2
The rejected realist, page 10

CBI expects buoyant year ahead

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's manufacturing industry, booming after four years of recession, is enjoying its most widespread increase in orders and optimism since 1977, says the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI's latest quarterly trends survey, regarded as one of the most reliable indicators of industrial health, shows that manufacturers are heading for a relatively bumper year.

Despite the miners' strike, more than a third of respondents to the latest survey are now more optimistic about prospects than four months ago, with only 10 per cent less optimistic.

For five successive quarterly surveys, the CBI has recorded greater optimism. But, once again, business leaders are circumspect. The recovery is fragile and from a very low base and, says the CBI, "we have a very long way to go."

Some companies see the better times lasting well into 1985. But Mr Kenneth Edwards, deputy director-general of the CBI, said yesterday: "There is a confidence, but people mostly are looking only about six months ahead."

In a clear message of springtime cheer, which the Government undoubtedly will interpret as a vindication of economic policies, manufacturers are reporting much higher order books, higher output, partial restocking and rising exports.

Mr David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said yesterday: "We must remember that this improvement has been from the desperately low base of a year ago."

Rivals clash as 6,000 rebel pitmen jeer union chiefs

By Paul Routledge and Craig Seton

The split in the miners' union over the "rolling strike" came into violent public focus yesterday when moderate pitmen staged a "right to work" demonstration outside the offices of the Nottinghamshire area.

Mounted police were called in to keep the warring factions apart as strikers staged a counter-demonstration on the sports field behind the Mansfield headquarters of the National Union of Mineworkers.

About 1,500 strikers gathered to show their backing for the stoppage, now in its eighth week, but four times their number were there to protest against being valued out by their

area leader. The moderates carried placards saying "Adolf Scargill" and "Nottinghamshire miners have a right to work".

Mr Henry Richardson, left-wing area general secretary of the union, told the anti-strike contingent: "You are the only friends Ian MacGregor has got. It is about time you acted like bloody men and showed your solidarity with other miners."

Mr Ray Chadburn, area president, urged the miners to take their protest to the coal board's headquarters in London, but the non-strikers shouted "Resign", "Traitor" and "We're off to work tomorrow".

An estimated 5,000 to 7,000 non-striking Nottinghamshire miners marched on the Mansfield headquarters. The inevitable confrontation exposed the deep and increasingly bitter rift in the traditionally moderate coal field. Most of its 34,000 miners have continued to work normally and are demanding a national ballot while many others - estimated by the NCB at between 1,000 and 3,000 - have joined the strike.

Police estimated that the total number of miners involved in yesterday's demonstration at Mansfield reached 10,000. Another 1,000 on their way from Derbyshire and Yorkshire to support striking colleagues in Nottinghamshire were turned back. Nine arrests were made.

Continued on back page, col 1

Police mar Walesa's day out

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Lech Walesa took to the Gdansk streets yesterday, infiltrating a Communist May Day march, as Polish police used water cannons, tear-gas and rubber batons to disperse Solidarity supporters across the nation.

Protesters a few yards behind Mr Walesa were arrested but he emerged unscathed. The Government said only 8,000 Solidarity sympathizers were involved.

Mr Walesa said the Gdansk march was a great success, adding that police had three times attacked the infiltrators but failed to stop them embarrassing the party leadership. The authorities hailed May Day as a victory.

Walesa defiant, page 6

M&S plans to issue credit card

By Our City Staff

Marks and Spencer, the chain store, is to issue its own credit card for the first time in its 100 years.

The card - known as the Marks and Spencer charge card - will go on trial at the chain's Scottish stores next month. If successful, the scheme will be extended throughout Britain next year.

The trial will be operated for the chain by a company in the Bank of Scotland Group.

Lord Sieff, who steps down as chairman in July, announced record pretax profits of £279.3m yesterday and a 22.5 per cent increase in dividends.

Record profits, page 15

BA tops world airlines profit league

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

British Airways claimed the title of the world's most profitable airline yesterday after reporting a sharp increase in after-tax profits last year from £51m to £181m. The results will give British Airways' 37,000 employees bonuses totalling £17m - an average of £460 each - under its pioneering profit-sharing scheme introduced last year.

Lord King, the airline's chairman, made it clear, however, that he would resist to the end any attempt to break up the airline before it is privatized and sold to stock market investors next year.

Speaking at a press conference to announce the record results, he appeared to hint at one point that he would resign if the airline was forced by the Government to surrender any

of its routes or aircraft to other British airlines. He later denied, however, that resignation was in his mind.

The possibility of British Airways being surprised of some of its assets has become a live political issue since British Caledonian, the independent British airline, launched a

campaign last autumn to take over £250m of assets from the state-owned airline. British Caledonian claimed this was the only way to prevent British Airways becoming a dominant private sector monopoly after privatization.

In a characteristically trenchant performance, Lord King described British Caledonian chairman Sir Adam Thomson's claim that this would increase competition as "claptrap", and said: "It will not happen. We will not allow it."

The Government will not have the blessing of me or my board to take away anything from British Airways", he said. "I would regard it as a resignation issue, but whether I would resign, I don't know. My philosophy is that I accept resignations, I don't submit them."

Yesterday's results show

that British Airways made an operating profit (that is, before interest, taxation and special items) of £272m, up from £174m in the previous year. This is somewhat in excess of the £250m operating profit which Lord King has repeatedly said is the minimum profit level needed to make the airline a saleable commodity.

The flotation is provisionally scheduled for spring next year, and Lord King said: "The results are such that I have every confidence that we shall be an attractive investment not only for the investing public but also for our own employees."

With the help of a revaluation of part of its aircraft fleet, British Airways is now no longer technically insolvent, as it was last year. It still has debts of £900m, but its balance sheet liabilities no longer exceed its assets.

Kenneth Fleet, page 15

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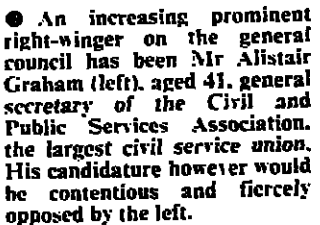
Battle to find Murray's successor

By Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

The search for a new general secretary of the TUC got under way last night after the surprise announcement that Mr Len Murray is to retire early.

Jockeying for position has started, but there are 11 weeks to go before the deadline for nominations expires on July 16, and new candidates are certain to enter the field.

The claims of several leading contenders for the position, drawn from within the TUC headquarters and from the wider labour movement were last night being discussed, and brief details are given below.



● An increasing prominent right-winger on the general council has been Mr Alistair Graham (left), aged 41, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association. His candidature however would be contentious and fiercely opposed by the left.

● Mr Murray succeeded to the leadership from the deputy general secretary's job: the present deputy, Mr Norman Willis (right), aged 51, is likely to have a similar ambition. He is a former head of research at the Transport Workers Union.



● One of the prominent "insiders" who could run for the leadership is Mr Ken Graham (left), assistant general secretary, but at 61 he may feel that the chance has passed him by.

● Mr Gavin Laird (right), aged 51, the moderate secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Workers, has been much in the shadow of the union's president, Mr Terence Duffy. But his deference has not been caused by any lack of ambition.



● Mr Tony Christopher (left), leader of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, has made no secret of his ambition to become general secretary of the TUC. Firmly on the right of the movement, he has established himself as a polished television performer.

● Mr David Lea (right), aged 46, one of the two assistant general secretaries, is expected to stand for election by the congress. He has been a joint secretary of the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee since 1972.

The rejected realist, page 10

Huge costs for hotels as right to a single TV licence goes

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government is to remove the privilege that allows hotels to have all the television sets on their premises covered by a single licence.

Changes that will cost the hotel trade many millions of pounds are expected to be announced soon by Ministers: a new scale of fees will mean hoteliers having to take out licences for a given number of sets.

It is expected that the number of sets to be covered on one licence will be fewer than five. That would mean that hotels, such as the Savoy in London, which have more than 200 rooms with colour televisions (at present covered by one £46 licence) would have to take out more than 40 licences.

Action was foreshadowed in a letter sent last night by the Prime Minister to Mr Max Madden, Labour MP for Bradford West.

She told him that Home Office ministers felt that the present arrangements were not satisfactory "and are considering whether hotels should pay fees which bear some relationship to the number of television sets which are installed in guests' rooms."

The British Hotels, Restaurants, and Caterers Association disclosed last night that it had had two meetings with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Office minister responsible for broad-

casting, to argue against changes to the present system.

It spoke of cash flow difficulties for hoteliers who faced suddenly with a new impost and said that it could mean that some hotel modernisation improvement schemes, which were always being urged by the Government and the tourist authorities, would have to be postponed or abandoned.

An official added that three quarters of people staying in hotels were British, most of whom would already have paid licences for their own sets.

How much revenue will be raised will depend on the final details of the scheme. When Lord Whitelaw, then Home Secretary, said in a Commons debate in 1981 that the sum that could be brought in by charging hotels for their individual sets was £8m, the figure was challenged by the Opposition, which said it was much higher.

Mr Madden, whose plea for free television licences for pensioners was rejected by the Prime Minister in her letter, said that extra revenue from the hotels would help to offset the cost of concessionary licences.

The change will not require primary legislation. The Home Secretary would amend existing legislation by laying regulations before Parliament.

VAT relief on heritage buildings

By Christopher Warman

Listed buildings, including historic and stately homes, are to be excluded from the Government's proposals to charge 15 per cent value-added tax on building alterations. Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State at the Treasury, announced in the House of Commons yesterday.

The tax is due to take effect on June 1, but the proposed concession will not apply to buildings in conservation areas which are not themselves listed.

The government's change of mind followed strong pressure from amenity groups, such as Save Britain's Heritage, and came after Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, had put down an amendment to the Finance Bill seeking exemption for churches, charities, listed and historic buildings.

Mr Latham had argued that zero rating would help to preserve Britain's heritage of fine architecture. The Historic Buildings Commission estimated that the concession would cost the Exchequer only £20m of the estimated £450m yield from the tax, he said.

Mr Hayhoe told the Commons, during a debate on the committee stage of the Bill, that the Government would consider a concession to exclude listed buildings between now and the report stage.

£25,900 for scones at Belton

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A pair of Queen Anne silver scones or candleholders, which formed part of the original furnishings of Belton House in Lincolnshire, were sold in Christie's sale there yesterday for £25,920 (estimate £15,000-£25,000) to a Continental dealer.

The magnificent Restoration house was built by Sir John Brownlow and completed about 1688.

The scones each have handsome armorial back plate and a curved arm to hold the candle in front of it. They bear the maker's mark of Phillip Rollos.

Pictures from the Brownlow collections made up yesterday afternoon's sale. The Dutch paintings which had been bought in The Netherlands in 1754 by Sir Henry Banks, father-in-law of the first Baron Brownlow, secured the top prices. An "Interior with a Cavalier", by Gerrit Lundens, went for £48,600 (estimate £15,000-£25,000) to J. Van Haeften, a London dealer.

In London on Monday the Sheffield City Art Gallery secured a group of four cartoons of the Beatles. They were painted in acrylic emulsion on celluloid for the Beatles film *The Yellow Submarine*. "George" and "Ringo" cost the museum £330 apiece.



Another President with clay figures in a tomb

City tower 'obsession' under fire

By John Young

One man's "obsession" to create a lasting monument to modernism in the heart of the City of London was assailed by lawyers representing the City Corporation, the Greater London Council and the Mercers' Company at the opening of a public inquiry at Guildhall yesterday.

The inquiry is into an appeal against the rejection of planning permission for a redevelopment scheme close to the Mansion House, which would include a 20-storey tower block designed by the late Miles van der Rohe.

Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC, for the corporation said that, although it had approved a similar scheme 15 years ago, it had now come round to the view that the scheme was wholly inappropriate. Its change of mind reflected a change in public opinion, which was now in favour of conservation and against the comprehensive redevelopment of historic city centres.

"The brave new world that we were promised by certain architects and planners has been found to be sadly wanting in scale, individuality, ornament, and vitality," he said.

Mr Raymond Sears, QC, for the GLC, said that the dream of the appellant, Mr Peter Palumbo, "which of course has become an obsession, should not be permitted to become a reality."

It did not accord with the council's office development policy set out under the Greater London Development Plan. The role of architects was not a predominant one, being subservient to the public interest, and they should not be allowed to dictate what happened to cities.

Mr Michael Ogden, QC, for the Mercers' Company, said the proposed tower building was far too high and its acceptance would make proposals for other tall buildings around St Paul's Cathedral difficult to resist.

Unions set to meet over Ravenscraig

A final attempt is to be made today to avert a serious confrontation between steel and miners' unions over coal supplies to the Ravenscraig steelworks in Scotland.

The meeting of the triple alliance of rail, steel and miners' unions was agreed yesterday an hour before the noon deadline after which steelmen threatened to bring in coal by road.

A 30-strong miners' picket turned up at the plant and checked vehicles entering through its back gate. The picket was good humoured and there were no incidents.

Inside, officials of the main steel union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, discussed the miners' refusal to make the plant a special case.

Shop stewards' convenor at the plant, Mr Tommy Brennan, said the present limit of one trainload of coal a day was not acceptable and that steelmen would bring coal in by road if production was threatened.

Officials of the Scottish TUC are understood to have spent the day in negotiations to force the National Union of Mineworkers to increase its coal limit and to patch-up what threatens to be a serious rift.

Signalman crashes runaway train

A British Rail signalman yesterday deliberately crashed a runaway train at 65 mph to stop it from hurtling into a mainline station.

Mr Bill Taylor, aged 58, had only four minutes to prevent disaster when a freight train on Glasgow from Liverpool to Glasgow carrying lethal chemicals split in two at Southwaite as it approached Carlisle station at 5.30 am.

He let the first part of the train, pulled by two locomotives, enter the station and

diverted the runaway section, on to a goods line where it plunged 20ft into the Caldwade.

No one was hurt, but a mile of track was ripped up, overhead power lines pulled down, and two parapets of a bridge demolished.

The train was extensively damaged, but a tanker carrying Oxyel, a dangerous petrol additive, was left intact.

Wagons containing another chemical, bonacid, were ruptured, spilling the liquid into the water.

Liverpool beats the clock

Twenty-four hours before the Queen's arrival to open Liverpool's International Garden Festival, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday returned to see how the seed he planted as Secretary of State for the Environment, had bloomed.

After viewing the site from the coming tower of the yellow submarine, a tribute to the Beatles, Mr Heseltine said: "We have here a quite remarkable achievement. What Liverpool and Merseyside have done is a triumph against the clock. I think Liverpudlians are wonderful."

He defended the decision to spend £30m on the six-month festival instead of on long-term projects to help unemployment, saying that "a cancerous 800 acres of rotting decline and dereliction" had been turned into "a most exciting urban renewal scheme in this country in this century."

"There has been a transformation here, people don't expect miracles, this is a beginning," he added. "You cannot solve instantly long and deep-seated problems. It's going to be of massive benefit to Merseyside and of benefit to the country as a whole."

Abolishing councils 'will save £20m'

From Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent, Birmingham

Conservative council leaders issued yesterday what they hoped would be a vote-winning estimate of manpower savings that would result from the proposed abolition of the English metropolitan county councils in two years' time.

They published an £18,000 report from Price, Waterhouse, the City accountants, which foresaw a cut in three of the six counties of 4,500 jobs. They council leaders said that would lead to savings of about £20m a year.

A third of the seats on the 36 district councils in the metropolitan counties will be contested in the local government elections tomorrow.

Mr Robert Meacham, Con-

Food laced with drugs at school, nurse says

From Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent, Harrogate

Schoolchildren's sweets, milk and packed lunches were being doctored with illegal drugs at a big comprehensive school on the Wirral in Cheshire to drug them into the drug scene, the Royal College of Nursing was told at its annual congress in Harrogate yesterday.

Mrs Dorothy Crowther, a nurse-tutor at Clatterbridge Hospital, and a member of the College's council, said her family doctor had told her that "nauseous" children had come to him with symptoms of being under the influence of drugs.

"The idea seems to be to get them hooked first of all and then approach the children and say: 'You know the effect those sweets had on you the other day, well why don't you try some of this?'"

Mrs Crowther said she was "horrified" at what was happening but that the scandal was being hushed up. "It is not being publicized because the school does not want it publicized," she said. She believed it should be exposed but did not want to name the school herself because her 18-year-old daughter was taking A-levels there this year.

Her claims came as the congress unanimously backed a call for tougher action by the Government to stop the illegal importation of heroin into Britain.

Mrs Crowther said she learnt of the trouble at the school when her daughter became ill and died early this year.

Her daughter turned out to have glandular fever, but the doctor told her that cartons of milk were being injected with drugs, sweets were being doctored and packed lunches tampered with.

Judge backs use of supergrasses

Mr Justice Brian Hutton defended the use of "supergrasses" in Northern Ireland yesterday after convicting 10 Londonderry terrorists of crimes including murder on evidence from the Provisional IRA informer, Robert Quigley.

He said convictions on informers' statements had been permitted for 200 years and said of Mr Quigley: "Because of his evidence a number of dangerous men who would have been a grave threat... will go to prison." He will sentence the men today.

Mrs Thatcher was commenting on the remarkable success of a company which was expanding into its own 100,000 sq. ft. factory in Peterborough. A company that moved into a 40,000 sq. ft. advance factory only five years ago.

Hundreds of companies have moved to Peterborough and nearly all have experienced an upturn in output, productivity and profit.

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Flowers for victims as life resumes

By Michael Horsnell

A bunch of bluebells and daffodils in a glass vase was yesterday placed by an elderly woman, close to the spot where policewoman Yvonne Fletcher died two weeks ago, as life began its slow return to normal in St James's Square.

Police completed their initial search of the Libyan People's Bureau and the huge blue tarpaulins which have blocked off the square came down. Office workers were allowed to return to their desks.

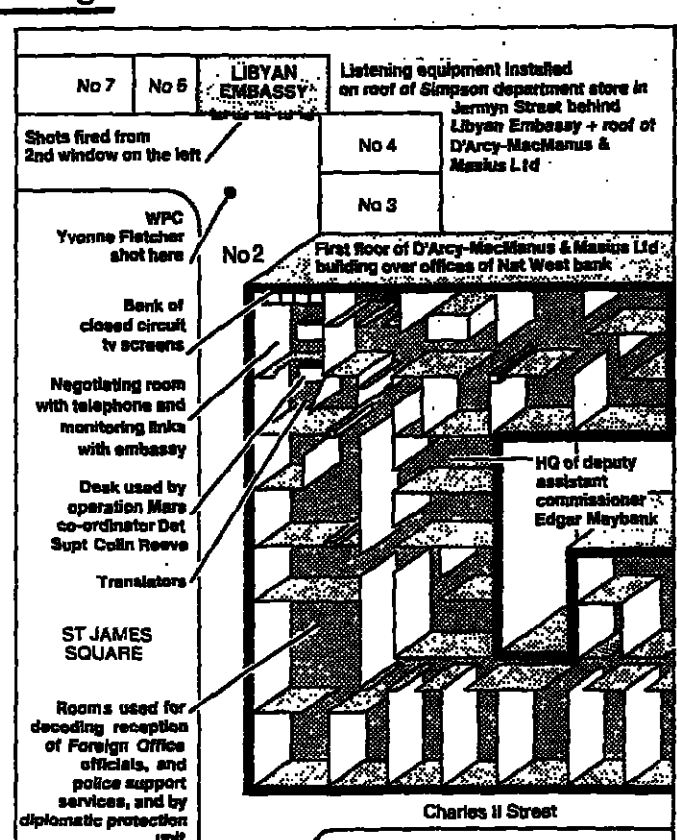
Only the eight buildings on either side of the bureau at the northern end of the square remained cordoned off but a sympathetic constable allowed the woman to slip under the white tape with her floral tribute which, she said, should be replaced by a permanent memorial.

Tourists looking for bullet marks on the street nearly outnumbered the police as Operation Mars, the most complex of its kind carried out in Britain, neared its frustrating end with the removal of electronic equipment from No 2 St James's Square where headquarters was established within 30 minutes of the shooting.

The premises house the offices of D'Arcy-MacManus and Masius, the advertising agency situated three doors away from the Libyan People's Bureau, a huge interlocking double-building which stretches halfway down Charles II Street.

save for a few scuff marks on the brown carpet of room 107, the first floor office had been occupied by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Edgar Maybanks, aged 51, the police officer in charge of Operation Mars, there was little indication that here had been the nerve centre of a murder inquiry.

After the siege



By last Friday up to 300 members of staff were working as normally as possible, scarcely concealing their awe at the direct coded links set up with Downing Street and the Prime Minister when she was in Portugal, the vast array of electronic equipment and the sight of policemen with guns.

Mr Jackson-Feilden told me: "In terms of administration and organization it was a nightmare because we were trying to carry on at people were always losing touch with us. Still, we managed."

But the police were tremendously efficient and most courteous, very cool and clear and purposeful. There was no question that they knew what

Minister yields on guard for arms factories

By Richard Evans

The Government yesterday submitted to all-party opposition and withdrew its proposal to allow private security firms to guard royal ordnance factories when the are sold in the summer.

Instead, Ministry of Defence police, who protect the 11 factories which produce much of the arms and ammunition for the Services, will continue their protection work for the immediate future.

But in the long term a special guard force, recruited and trained by the new private sector company which takes over control of the factories when they are privatized, will replace the ministry police.

Mr John Lee, Under Secretary for Defence Procurement, announced the changes

Probation care for offenders to be reduced

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government wants the probation service to limit its traditional work in such areas as the after-care of offenders as well as its role in settling matrimonial disputes through conciliation.

Instead, the service is to concentrate on supervising offenders who are given non-custodial penalties, and will ensure that non-custodial measures such as community service orders are used wherever possible.

The new strategy for the service in England and Wales was outlined yesterday by the Home Office in the first statement of priorities and objectives to be made for the 11,000 probation officers and support staff.

Teachers upset classes

Continued from page 1

employers are now thought to be waiting to gauge the extent of support among teachers for the industrial action. The biggest test of teachers' resolve comes next Wednesday, when the National Union of Teachers, the largest union, is calling its 235,000 members out on a one-day strike.

In the Commons, Sir Keith said he hoped individual teachers would reflect on the "irresponsible and unprofessional course on which union leaders are now inviting them to embark."

Mr Giles Radice, opposition Education Spokesman, said that if the Government and the

Department of Education and Science had any confidence in their arguments for keeping the pay rise to 4.5 per cent, they would adopt the traditional course of solving teachers' disputes and go to arbitration.

He said teachers had been insulted by the original 3 per cent offer when 70 per cent of them were paid less than £10,000 a year. Sir Keith had made a "major contribution in talks by vetoing an earlier increase in the offer. The teachers might have accepted 4.5 per cent a month ago."

Mr Douglas McAvooy, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said Sir Keith's remarks were a "recipe for further conflict."

0733 68931

PARLIAMENT May 1 1984

PM: Intelligence sources must not be compromised

SECURITY

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, twice refused during Commons questions requests from Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, to set up an inquiry into the circumstances which led to the death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher and the events at the former Libyan Peoples Bureau.

She added that an internal inquiry under the Cabinet Office would see if there were lessons to be learned in the handling of intelligence involving the Libyans but any changes made would probably not be published for security reasons.

Mr Kinnock said there had been widespread disappointment in the Commons and outside, when she let it be known she was not in favour of an independent inquiry.

He added: Will she reconsider that apparent decision and facilitate an inquiry which neither exposes nor compromises the security services but is specifically addressed to the response of the Government to the information which they appear to have received about the activities of the Libyan Peoples Bureau since it was established in 1979?

Mrs Thatcher: No. We have set up an internal inquiry under the Cabinet Office. Any external inquiry into intelligence matters would risk compromising sources and damaging the effectiveness of the intelligence services. Indeed, it would damage the very cause which most of us seek to protect.

Mr Kinnock: It is difficult to foresee that outcome if the Prime Minister were to commission an inquiry into, as I ask, the Government's responses to the information received during the existence of the Libyan Peoples Bureau.

Will she accept that an inquiry does not have to publish the sources or detail of the information but it is surely necessary for the House and the country to discover what was the level of validity of that information and how the Government reacted to it in their instructions, in her instructions, to the police and the security services and the terms of this country's relations with the Republic of Libya?

Mrs Thatcher: No. I have already given instructions for the circumstances leading up to the events of April 17 in St James's Square, including intelligence and other information available, to be thoroughly reviewed.

If there are lessons to be learnt in regard to the arrangements for handling, disseminating and assessing intelligence, the necessary changes will be made. I am afraid it may well be inappropriate on security grounds to make public announcement of any such changes.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, Members of the Franks Committee, let alone other privy councillors will find it hard to understand how these inquiries would risk compromising

security and damaging the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the service.

If she holds a derisory view of official inquiries, how does she justify at least not asking the Security Commission which was established for this purpose, to investigate these allegations which she herself, by implication, is accepting have some validity.

Mrs Thatcher: No one has been more forthcoming on intelligence matters than I have. Perhaps, too forthcoming. The more they are discussed, the more sources are compromised. Dr Owen is aware of an occasion when that may well have happened.

About the Security Commission, its terms of reference are to investigate breaches of security in the public service, normally following a conviction under the Official Secrets Act. I am not prepared to ask them to undertake an inquiry as he has proposed.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab): The eyes of the nation were on the Libyan Embassy during the siege. The eyes of the nation are on her at this moment, bearing in mind

what the media is saying and what she has just said about a review.

Is this another cover-up by the Conservative Party because of the failure, once again, of the Foreign Office?

Mrs Thatcher: No. I have nothing further to add to what the Home Secretary said. In the difficult circumstances after the terrible events of that day when PC Fletcher was shot, the Home Secretary and the whole Government faced the problem of our people in the embassy in Tripoli. We obviously had to consider their safety. I fully recognise that, and of them coming home safely and of breaking off diplomatic relations with Libya, an almost unprecedented step in the international community, followed by the deportation of all those from the People's Bureau.

Kinnock: Inquiry does not have to reveal detail

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Health and Social Security Bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debate on diffusion of private property.

at the London economic summit in early June.

The most effective answer to international terrorism (he declared) is international action taken collectively by the major countries. We have taken that action so far as any country faced with these threats, and shall continue to press for similar action on an international basis.

The Foreign Secretary stated: We have made clear to the Libyan authorities that we hold them responsible for guaranteeing the continued safety of the British community. Two British Embassy officials have remained behind to maintain the necessary liaison with the interests of the Italian Embassy. Their first task has been to continue to press for the release of those British citizens who are unjustifiably detained in Libya.

The Foreign Secretary yesterday reinforced the urgent representations which had already been made on numerous occasions by our departing Ambassador.

We are urgently reviewing all existing contracts for the supply of defence equipment to Libya. There can be no question of allowing any fresh exports of that kind. We have also terminated the training of two Libyan officer cadets at Dartmouth.

As for diplomatic relations, I have instituted a full review of the situation. I shall report the outcome of this review to the House. The Select Committee on Foreign Affairs may well wish to raise the question, which I would welcome.

Local council elections: 3

The erosion of much of the power of local councils in Scotland has discouraged some potential candidates from standing in tomorrow's elections. But as RONALD FAUX, Scottish Correspondent, reports, the party political scales would tip in a number of finely balanced seats.

The right of council house tenants to buy their homes - important in a country with a large public housing stock - the right of the Secretary of State for Scotland to cap the rates of high-earning council tenants, and the prohibition on district councils from levying supplementary rates have all helped to ease the budgetary controls from local to national government, eroding the relevance of the district councils.

Party workers admit it has often been difficult to encourage candidates of quality to stand in local politics, and some significant personalities in local government have refused reelection this time.

Some feel that since physical planning is the only strong power remaining to the councils, the reward of office is not worth the effort.

Even so, the elections in Scotland promise some narrow contests with the Labour Party especially confident of maintaining its stronghold and

echoes of Liverpool in the long confrontation between the radical left-wing council and the Scottish Office.

A rates increase of 122 per cent was set after a cut of £700,000 in rate support grant, and the authority was ordered to obey the law on council house sales and obliged by legal action to end a policy trade union representation at committee meetings.

The Conservatives are optimistic because their candidate soundly defeated the Labour group leader who stood in the General Election in the new Strathclyde constituency. A repeat performance on Thursday could win the council for the Conservatives.

In Edinburgh it is the Conservatives who are under threat. They hold 30 seats to Labour's 25 with the balance held by two Liberals, two Scottish National Party representatives and three independent councillors.

However, not all local elections in Scotland are fought on party political lines. Outside the central belt in particular personal qualities are often valued more than political belief and independence more than party allegiance.

Concluded

The Labour Party has promised some radical left-wing reforms of local government which, with the memory of confrontation that a leftist Lothian region achieved still fresh in the mind, could swing support significantly to the Alliance.

Elsewhere, the balance is close. In Aberdeen where Liberal revival of the new housing estates could affect the outcome, in Kyle and Carrick, home ground of Mr George Younger, Secretary of State, where Labour had been divided by extremist infiltration, and Inverclyde where Liberals have taken control through by-elections but where Liberal and Social Democrat candidates are now contesting with each other.

The Scotland-Lingov shipyard issue is vital to this area and Labour expects to gain credit as a strong supporter of the campaign to save the yard.

While a general concession would run into problems the existence of statutory laws of buildings of special historical interest, such as the Glasgow City Hall, made it possible to consider a concession which could be limited to structural alterations to such listed buildings including churches.

Between now and the report stage (he continued) we will consider a concession along those lines. I hope we would be able to announce the detailed provisions of such a concession before the end of May so that we would be ahead of the effective date of bringing building alterations into tax. This would be carried forward if we are on an extra-statutory basis until the report stage of the Bill.

LONDON SIEGE

The information obtained at Stanningdale continues to be accurate.

Since my last statement I have been considering whether the law on demonstrations and marches, as it applies to such events held by foreign nationals, or generally, can helpfully be amended.

Neither the police nor I have power to ban a static demonstration in advance. But the police have extensive powers, in pursuance of their duty to preserve the peace, to regulate the conduct of demonstrations and to prevent a demonstration assembling, or to disperse one already assembled, if they have reasonable cause to believe that such action is necessary to preserve or restore public order.

As to marches, the Public Order Act 1936 provides powers to impose conditions on, or to ban the holding of, public processions, in order to prevent serious public disorder.

I understand the feelings which officers behind suggestions that demonstrations and marches by foreign nationals should be subject to special controls and, possibly, to a ban, or to a ban on the holding of such events in the future.

Whether it would be right either for the police or the Government to be empowered to pick and choose which demonstrations were permissible and which were not, either in relation to the nationality of those concerned or the subject about which they were demonstrating, I should like to consider.

I have also considered what I should remember who came to the demonstrators in St James's Square were the victims, not the perpetrators, of violence. But we must be certain that there are adequate powers to prevent violent actions from being taken on the streets of London.

I have in hand a comprehensive review of public order law, including the powers of the police and regulation of static demonstrations. The conclusion of the review, and the announcement of the results, will be expedited.

I have also considered what additional immigration measures can be taken, quickly, and within the present rules, to bring home the fact that we are not prepared to tolerate nationals of other countries bringing onto the streets of Britain for their own political ends.

Libyan visitors will receive permissions to stay of short duration, adapted to the circumstances of each case: measures will be taken to ensure that those admitted observe the conditions imposed.

Libyan students who come to Britain must be bona fide students and we expect them to pursue their studies, not indulge in violence. Yet they have been prone to do just that. I intend, therefore, to tighten up immigration control affecting them.

Any Libyan student who qualifies for admission under the rules will not normally be given permission to stay for more than one term at a time; anyone failing to meet the requirements in any respect will be refused an extension; each application for re-admission will be considered on its merits.

In particular we shall have to be fully satisfied that a student is in fact properly pursuing a full-time course of study. Similar restrictive measures will apply to other categories of applicants in particular the security of our essential communications.

Another sanction is the expulsion of any diplomat who abuses his status.

We also have the power to set limits to the size of diplomatic missions and the number of diplomatic staff in any country. Such limits are not in our view being used for diplomatic purposes.

We now face a wider threat from international terrorism. We shall not hesitate to use our powers to prevent the abuse by missions of their diplomatic status in connection with terrorist activities.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, (Leeds, East, said: Both *The Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* have described this episode as a humiliating defeat for this country. That must be the view of the great majority of MPs.

The Foreign Secretary and his press secretary have shared a share of the responsibility for this humiliation and the miserable story just recounted would, in a more robust age, have been regarded as grounds for impeachment. (Conservative protest)

allow our bags to be scanned, nor to scan the bags of others.

This topic is currently on the agenda of the United Nations International Law Commission. We have no intention of changing the law, whether any change of practice is desirable. Any such change would inevitably take place on a reciprocal basis. We have to decide in these cases how best to protect British interests in particular the security of our essential communications.

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which will be supported by appropriate instructions to visa posts abroad, I have been concerned not to undermine our tradition as a country of safe refuge and asylum.

No-one from a country to which such restrictions apply who wishes peacefully to express his views in public, has anything to fear. But those who abuse our hospitality with violence will cease to receive it.

Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said they had all suffered a national humiliation with WPC Yvonne Fletcher being shot down in cold blood and her colleagues in the force being obliged to escort her murderer in safety out of the country.

The British people want to know he said if this disaster, combined with the personal and family tragedy, could have been prevented and if a repetition of the nature could be prevented. The Home Secretary has got nowhere near completing his report.

The Home Office was complacent about the activities of the Libyan Peoples Bureau after a warning on March 1 about the anger of Libyan action.

After the London and Manchester bombings, why did a Home Office minister tell the House of Lords in April 5 in answer to a question on the bureau that the understood the source that would be a warning from other diplomatic institutions but at the moment it was not causing embarrassment?

WPC Fletcher was gunned down from 12 days later. Did the Government have any information about how the weapon which killed her got into the bureau?

Will Mr Brittan (he went on) clear up the question about a letter, order from Tripoli was intercepted? If so, was it decided in advance of the demonstration at the bureau or decided in time to counter those who were training with the army forces. There were also 280 apprentices with British Airways in training at Heston, next to Heathrow airport. Many of these were believed to be highly motivated political.

Mr Brittan (the said) has told the House and the country little of what they have the need and the right to know. Only an independent inquiry can satisfy public disquiet.

The Opposition demands an independent inquiry into the whole of this grave and damaging episode.

Mr Brittan said, on the intelligence questions, he could not add to what had already been said by Mrs Thatcher.

There was a suggestion that the Libyan diplomats said they would not be responsible for what happened if the Government did not prevent demonstrations. This had been entirely in line with

the Foreign Secretary has often been described as having a laid back style but I suggest his response to the bombings in London and Manchester was positively horizontal. (Labour) In response to the warning by our embassy in Tripoli and the Libyan Bureau in London that violence was likely to attend the demonstration before Easter.

Steel: Why was bureau allowed to continue?

The police were told, but the clear impression was that they were warned to take these warnings seriously and they were allowed to police the demonstration with an unarmed police woman who stood during the demonstration with her back to the bureau.

Why were 11 occupants of the bureau who did not enjoy diplomatic immunity sent back to Libya without any attempt to establish whether they had complicity in the

previous attempts to try to muzzle demonstrations and there was nothing special in the way it was put.

It would not have been appropriate on the strength of the representations made by Libyan diplomats, that a ban be made on a demonstration which was very small in scale and very local.

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Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, Lab) said he supported the Home Secretary in his strong reaction but he had to warn of the danger of this degenerating into a witch hunt against all Arabs in Britain.

Mr Brittan said there would be no witch hunt but the Government would deal with those against whom there was material to suggest that their continued presence in this country was a danger to public peace.

Immigration officers at ports (he said) would be given the necessary information to ensure that the expelled Libyan diplomats and so-called diplomats were not returning.

Anyone in that category who was tempted to return should bear in mind that the immunity extended had expired and they were open to arrest, investigation, interrogation and prosecution.

On the question of the efficacy of X-raying diplomatic bags, he was advised that modern X-ray equipment was highly efficient in detecting the presence of metal objects. If a weapon were to be the only object in a bag it would be possible to identify it, but it would be naive to suppose that those intent on imposing weapons in this way would not seek to disguise their presence by, for example, enclosing them in metal containers.

Mr Eddowes (Bury St Edmunds, C) said there was clear evidence that WPC Yvonne Fletcher was the first British police officer ever to be killed by a diplomat to whom the Foreign Office had given accreditation.

What compensation did the Foreign Office contemplate giving her family for her death?

If and when they were able to identify the murderer did the Government intend to see that he was put on trial in Libya or that ways were found of seeking his extradition so that he could be tried for murder in this country?

Mr Brittan said a trial in Libya would be a matter for the Libyan authorities. Everyone in the House would have their own view as to the likelihood of such a trial taking place and the probable outcome of it. As to the suggestion that the Foreign Office should provide compensation, that is a matter for the Foreign Secretary.

in taking the extremely difficult decision that had to be taken, one of the matters that had to be taken into account was the question of the safety not only of our own citizens but of the large British community in Libya, a number of whom are already unjustifiably detained.

The Home Secretary's handling of the matter has been conspicuous for its skill and courage.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, Why was the bureau allowed to continue operating for two months after the ousting of the four accredited diplomats in February before the shooting outrage, without the Foreign Secretary knowing who was in charge?

Has that happened in the case of any other embassy in London and west since that large number of the bureau until they supplied a fully accredited representative?

Concern will not be allayed by an internal inquiry by those responsible for the intelligence services into their activities. An independent inquiry will be necessary.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The events he described were paralleled by events at the time of the original establishment of the bureau, when the revolutionary committee ousted the Ambassador.

Being a revolutionary committee, Mr Steel may have greater sophistication in distinguishing between one and another than I. I have nothing to add to what the Prime Minister and Home Secretary said on an inquiry.

Second, and far more important, pay when 70 per cent of teachers earn under £10,000 a year.

Did he not put his influence behind an initial offer of 3 per cent when Scottish teachers had already been offered 4.5 per cent?

Arbitration, which the teachers have agreed to accept, was the normal way out of teachers' disputes.

Sir Keith Joseph: He is seeking, like other Labour Party representatives, to end a problem that can be solved by realistic negotiation, by throwing taxpayers' money at it.

It was no insult to the teachers to remind them that large numbers of what was told were excellent candidates for the teaching profession were coming forward at present rates of pay.

The short answer to all Mr Radice's questions was "No".

Mr Clement Freud (North East Cambridgeshire, U): How is it that Sir Keith Joseph can be so remote from the reality of the situation that rejection of a humiliating, unacceptable offer should come as a surprise to him?

Sir Keith Joseph: If I represent anyone in the educational world it is the pupils. And it is the pupils' interests which the trade union leaders are threatening to damage.

Answering Mr Radice's question, Sir Keith Joseph said he did not think arbitration was the answer because the arbitrator did not have to find the money and could therefore regard affordability as just one of a number of factors instead of what it was - the one determining factor.

Did he not then go on and insult the teachers by telling them that large numbers of candidates were coming forward at current rates of

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London summit security to be reviewed in wake of Libyan crisis

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The shooting in the square and the continuing Libyan crisis has prompted security chiefs to review arrangements for the protection of world leaders at next month's economic summit in London. Pressure on them to do so is expected from Washington where the Reagan Administration is trying to mobilize support among the allies for a united front against Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

Memories of anti-American violence in Lebanon and Iran also make President Reagan's bodyguards nervous in a country like Britain where they are not allowed to carry guns.

This jumpiness is unlikely to be wholly removed by the disclosure early last month that up to 12 SAS-style Heckler and Koch sub-machine guns have been ordered for Metropolitan police on special protection duties during the summit meeting on June 7-9.

In terms of news coverage as well as security the summit promises to be the biggest public event in London since

the royal wedding three years ago, with the heads of government of the United States, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan, together with their foreign and finance ministers, and the President of the European Commission joining Mrs. Thatcher. Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Nigel Lawson for talks at Lancaster House.

This is the tenth in the annual series since the first summit was held in November 1975 at Rambouillet, France, on the initiative of President Giscard d'Estaing.

The original idea was to restore order to the economic chaos of the mid-1970s when soaring oil prices, inflation, recession, and floating exchange rates were proving too much for the existing diplomatic machinery to cope with.

The French idea was that the meetings should be very informal and confidential, so that the free world's leading politicians could talk frankly about the problems confronting them and find practical solutions.

But the meetings have grown more institutionalized and now Lancaster House, rather than Downing Street, where top table

talks were held in 1977, had the space to allow foreign and finance ministers to conduct their own meetings simultaneously next door, coming together for plenary sessions or working lunches, as the programme dictates. As it is Giscard is having to be used for the final delivery of a joint statement by Mrs Thatcher.

If the Libyans do not trouble the Metropolitan police, the press almost certainly will. From a few hundred in the early days the number covering the summit has swelled to an expected 3,500 this year, and the whole of the Connaught Rooms has been hired by the Government as a press centre.

The official estimate of the summit cost between £2.5m and £3m, with Britain funding the visit for each world leader, and 14 others in his delegation.

"We have the taxpayer very much in mind," an official said. Meanwhile, one potential argument is emerging over how far the summit should concern itself with political issues. The French would like it to remain primarily an economic discussion. But President Reagan, with the White House election in November, is said to have other ideas.



Bad sport: A gunman bursts into the European wrestling championships in Jönköping, Sweden, with the fighters initially unaware of his presence. But a Polish contestant pins the intruder to the mat. The man was later identified as a Soviet exile and his weapon as a harmless toy pistol.

Israel prepares case against UK oil ban

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel is about to take legal moves to help to break what senior officials claim is a *de facto* British embargo on supplies of crude oil from the North Sea.

The ban was imposed in 1979 and maintained out of concern in Whitehall not to upset Arab oil producers. The British have repeatedly stated that the refusal to sell oil to Israel is not discriminatory but part of a wider policy on disposal of North Sea oil.

Israel's anger at the ban has been reinforced by the refusal of the Thatcher Government to lift it, given that Norway, the other main North Sea oil producer, lifted a similar ban more than 12 months ago.

Britain has stated that many other countries are adversely affected by the same policy - originally formulated by Mr Tony Benn when he was Energy Secretary - but do not complain about it.

The ban was raised by Israel's new President, Mr Chaim Herzog, during his recent visit to London, but he failed to secure any hint of a compromise from the British authorities.

Later this month Mr Mayer Gabai, Director-General of the Justice Ministry, will spend a week in London seeking advice from experts in EEC law, before deciding how Israel will act in a complex case which has been referred to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Final submissions are due in July.

Although the dispute in the first instance is between private

firms, Bulk Oil (ZUG) and Sun Oil Trading Company, the British Government has already intervened directly and failed to block the move the challenge the ban's validity under EEC law.

Last December, the High Court in London held that rulings by the European Court were needed to enable the English courts to rule on a dispute that arose from a refusal to load a cargo of oil at the Sullom Voe terminal in Shetland because it was destined for Israel.

Altogether, six companies were involved in the deal, in which the Swiss-based Bulk Oil ordered the crude on behalf of Delek, an Israeli petroleum group. Delek arranged for it to be transported by Tanker Services.

It is now understood that Israel is considering intervening in the case by submitting its



Mr Herzog: Failed to obtain compromise

EEC tops agenda on Kohl visit to Britain

From Michael Binyon Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrives in Britain today, bringing a senior government team with him for an intensive day of talks with Mrs Thatcher and her ministers. The main issues will be Libya, the European Community and European defence policy.

The fight against international terrorism and Britain's attempt to stop the abuse of diplomatic immunity will inevitably be the most topical themes during this annual round of Anglo-German consultations.

The Prime Minister can expect at least strong verbal support for her line against Libya. She will be reassured by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, that he has indefinitely postponed a proposed visit to Tripoli.

But the main issue for both sides is the crisis in Europe, where there are still real differences of view. The polemics between London and Bonn in the confusion after the failure of the Brussels Community summit have subsided and the irritation between Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl - he firmly put aside as both take stock of their joint interest in finding a quick and acceptable solution to Europe's money problems.

On many points the two countries are in agreement, but Mrs Thatcher will again emphasize to Herr Kohl that she is not the hard European she has recently been depicted as on the Continent.

She, in turn, will want him to be more specific about his recent high-sounding phrases about European union or unity, and will look for reassurance that talk in Bonn about a "two-speed Europe" or even a Europe of "variable geometry" (meaning a grouping of different member-states for different problems) does not represent Bonn's present policy.

European defence is another area where both sides see a need for increased effort and coordination.

The growing cooperation between France and West Germany in defence has been highlighted recently in the talk about reviving the Western European Union - which both Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl now regard as a good thing.

The British quietly support Bonn's attempts to use recent shifts in French defence policy to entice France back into the mainstream of European defence. Britain too would like to discuss this with France.

This is an area still so delicate that the Germans have not publicly set out their long-term aims, and Mrs Thatcher will be hoping for a thorough private briefing from the Chancellor.

Vietnamese accused of plotting invasion

Peking (Reuters) - China

accused Vietnam yesterday of preparing to invade its southern region and warned Hanoi to stop cross-border attacks or take the consequences.

The *People's Daily* said: "Since the beginning of this year, they (the Vietnamese) have redeployed their troops along the border to ready their preparations for an invasion of the Chinese border area."

"The Vietnamese authorities must immediately stop their provocations and intrusions along the border areas, otherwise they will only sow the wind and reap the whirlwind."

Peking charged that Vietnamese forces had also been building up tension by mounting attacks across the frontier, firing at Chinese villages and occupying unspecified areas of Chinese territory.

China said the action was designed to cover up a Vietnamese offensive against Cambodia and distract opinion at home from the country's hardships. Vietnam had been sending reinforcements of men, heavy guns, tanks and ammunition to the border.

Two days ago, China accused Vietnam of launching repeated attacks against border settlements in Yunnan province and Guangxi region. Both sides said thousands of shells had been exchanged in the past few weeks. A Foreign Ministry statement said Vietnamese troops had constructed fortified positions on Chinese territory.

● BANGKOK: Vietnam last night rejected a formal protest from Thailand alleging Vietnamese shelling on Monday of a Thai village in which one man was killed and about 50 villagers injured (Neil Kelly writes).

Mr Tran Quang Co, Vietnam's Ambassador in Bangkok, denied that Vietnamese forces in western Cambodia, near the Thai border, had been responsible for the attack on Ban Charat in Surin province, six miles west of the border.

Rebel chief wants more Chinese help



The recent military successes of one of the non-communist opponents of the Vietnamese in Cambodia should lead to increased supplies of arms from China, Mr. Son Sann (above), Prime Minister of the anti-Vietnam coalition and president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, said in London yesterday. *Simon Scott Plummer writes.*

He told *The Times* that his forces had achieved military credibility over the past 16 months. They had fought the Vietnamese for 51 successive days at Nong Chan on the Thai-Cambodia border at the beginning of 1983 and had repulsed a Vietnamese attack last month on their headquarters at Ampil. These actions should persuade Peking to step up arms supplies.

Mr Sann said he had 13,000 armed men and another 7,000 trained but not yet supplied with weapons. The forces of the other two coalition members, the communist Khmer Rouge and those of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, are put at more than 20,000 and 5,000 respectively.

Mr Sann is in London to seek financial and humanitarian aid to repair the damage caused by Vietnamese attacks on Cambodian villages. He met Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday.

Professor seeks end to 'harping' on GCHQ

By Peter Hennessy

Professor Harry Hinsley, Master of St John's College, Cambridge, and official historian of British intelligence in the Second World War, appealed yesterday for newspapers to stop "perpetually harping on the activities of the Government Communications Headquarters."

Quality newspapers treated intelligence as if it were the equivalent of pornography for titillating the middle class reader, he said.

Speaking on the eve of the publication of the third volume of his *British Intelligence in the Second World War*, Professor Hinsley said that he was amazed that the D-notice system had not prevented editors from constantly publishing material on British signals intelligence.

Professor Hinsley said that his previous volumes, which showed the vital part played by the Government Code and Cypher School, the precursor of GCHQ, in shortening the Second World War had failed in the sense that people had not, as a consequence, appreciated the need for maximum confidentiality in such matters in peace as in war.



Professor Hinsley: Plea to common sense

"It is getting dangerous. If it is not stopped voluntarily now by newspapers, we are in for trouble. I am appealing to the common sense of editors."

"I did hope that as a consequence of people learning the truth about World War II they would clamp up on grounds of national security. It was a miracle that we managed to keep it secret in the war. The most careful precautions were made and followed."

British Intelligence in the Second World War, Volume III, Part I by F. H. Hinsley, published tomorrow (Stationery Office, £17.95).

Psychiatrist cleared of assault

Dr Michael Carney, aged 53, a consultant psychiatrist of Mount Park Road, Harrow on the Hill, north-west London, was cleared by St Albans Crown Court yesterday of indecently assaulting Mrs Karen Taylor, aged 28, his book-keeper, in a consulting room at a private clinic in Harrow on the Hill.

Mr Bernard Hargrove, QC, for the defence, said that there had been ill feeling between them over fees owed to Dr Carney by the clinic. Mrs Taylor had been "out to make make trouble for the doctor for a long time", Counsel added.

What is believed to be the world's first system for extracting heat commercially from sewage was opened yesterday in Wellington, Somerset, by the Wessex Water Authority.

The heat produced by the bacterial breakdown of sewage raises the temperature of water via heat exchange panels, to 13°C. The water is then pumped to offices near by at an estimated average saving in fuel costs of £1,500 a year.

Car gems raid

Pearls, diamonds and gold necklaces worth £35,000 were stolen from the boot of a London company director's car in Kingsbury Square, Aylesbury, on Monday.

School appeal

Cheltenham Ladies' College has challenged a £1m appeal to build boarding houses for 120 sixth-formers and extend science and electronics facilities.

A night at the opera that ended in discord

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The "patient animal that suddenly becomes dangerous in anger" is Signor Franco Zeffirelli's appreciative comment on the revolt of two leading singers against a controversial production of *Rigoletto* at Florence.

Speaking from his own experience as an opera director, Signor Zeffirelli says of opera in general: "This strange and complex animal is now beginning to show with increasing energy its discomfort, its dissent from the experimental approach, often wild and irresponsible, with which it has to be associated."

He claims to have detected signs of the spread of this revolt on stages throughout the world. "For years we have been on the edge of open rebellion."

He says of Signor Piero Cappuccelli, who would have sung the title role in *Rigoletto* but refused Mr Lyubimov's stage direction (which at one point called on him to imitate Charlie Chaplin): "Cappuccelli is one of the greatest singers of our times, and it is as well to remember this. He is not a temperamental star. He has worked in the world's theatres without difficulties, a valued collaborator for the directors, great or small as they may be."

Signor Zeffirelli says of Mr Lyubimov: "He is a director who comes from Russia where notoriously they produce the worst theatre in the world..."

He ends with the proposal that the right solution for the Saturday opening should be a concert version of *Rigoletto* without scenery or costumes: "Just black velvet which in this case would symbolize the melancholy obsessions of a concept on how to produce opera which has reached, and exceeded, the limit."

Signor Luciano Berio, the director of the *Orchestra Maggior Musicale* intends opening the festival as planned with *Rigoletto*, and has found substitutes for two singers and the conductors.

Smith party loses another MP

From Stephen Taylor Harare

The defection of another MP from Ian Smith's Republican Front to an independent group has left the party with only seven of the 20 white-seat seats in the Zimbabwe Parliament, all of which it won in the 1980 independence election.

Echoing the view of others who have quit the RF for the loose association of 13 independent members, Mr Geoffrey York was quoted yesterday by *The Herald* as saying: "Support for the RF has been significantly eroded, very largely because the party has not succeeded in detaching itself from its old associations and attitudes."

He believed it would be easier to work with Mr Robert Mugabe's government as an independent. The RF has no contact with the Government, while two MPs have ministerial posts.

Mr Smith said yesterday that Mr York's defection was not significant.

Nigerian press controls

Five journalists jailed under decree

From Clifford D May, New York Times, Lagos

The military government which seized power here on New Year's Eve has taken strong measures against the Nigerian press, jailing five journalists and, in the view of some, intimidating many others.

On April 17 the Government issued a decree granting itself the power to close newspapers and radio and television stations that are deemed to be in the interest of the Government. It also assumed the power to imprison journalists for inaccurate reporting or for writing articles that bring government officials into ridicule or disrepute. The decree was reminiscent of a decree signed into law in 1978 by the head of state, Lieutenant-General Olusegun Obasanjo.

The April 17 decree was made retroactive so that journalists would be as liable for what they wrote or broadcast before the decree was issued as well as after.

No charges have been made

public against the five journalists in detention and in most cases, the articles that appear to have led to their arrests do not seem to have been either inaccurate or mocking.

This is the first time in Nigeria's independent history that a concerted attempt has been made to restrain the freedom of the press," Mr Ray Ekpu, chairman of the editorial board of the *Independent Concord* newspaper, said.

"They are demanding press sycophancy at gunpoint. No other regime, military or civilian, has ever done that here."

The Nigerian press has long been considered exceptional in Africa. Several newspapers are sensationalist, and many are unabashedly partisan but they offer a diversity of information and opinions.

Until civilian rule ended on the last day of 1983, the newspapers owned or controlled by the opposition parties and Nigeria's independent papers harshly criticized President Shehu Shagari's handling of the economy, the corruption in his administration and the conduct of elections last summer.

When the military took over, the press overwhelmingly applauded the move, and coverage of the new regime's actions and statements has been largely favourable.

"Nothing the press has done in the past four months warrants this overkill," Mr Ekpu said. "On the contrary, the press has stood behind this administration in the hope it would be better."

A senior Western diplomat in Lagos noted that although the ousted civilian government was often linked by the press, it relied on the country's newspapers to report on the public mood.

Mr Eddie Iroh, managing editor of the *Guardian*, and independent newspaper, said: "It is illegal to bring an official into disrepute, you run a real risk by writing a story about his questionable financial dealings. So if the Government means what it says about corruption, this new decree is self-defeating."

Other journalists say the most troubling aspect of the crackdown is that no clear guidelines have set down. For example, Mr Tunde

Thompson, diplomatic correspondent for the *Guardian*, was detained on April 11 after publication of a story outlining the Government's plans to overhaul the foreign service. Several of the changes Mr Thompson predicted have since taken place.

The other journalists who have been detained are Mr Niyi Ogunro, publisher of a newspaper in Oyo state; Mr Haroun Adamu, editorial consultant to *The Punch* newspaper in Lagos; Mr Idawu, Adeyemi, editor of a newspaper in Ibadan, and Mr Ndaka Iraror, assistant news of the *Guardian*.

Several other journalists have been detained and later released. Many have been dismissed, particularly those who worked for government-owned papers or radio and television.

Those journalists charged with violating the new press decree, or Decree no. 4, face trial by a special tribunal under the chairmanship of a high court judge sitting with three senior military officers. The onus of proof is on the accused, who can be jailed for up to two years.

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Hattersley's driver hit

A motorcyclist was fined £75 by Totnes magistrates in Devon yesterday after admitting assaulting Mr Roy Hattersley's driver in a roadside incident.

Miss Pam Phipps, for the prosecution, told the magistrates that the Labour Party's assistant regional organizer, Mr Roy Hill, was driving Mr Hattersley, the Labour Party's deputy leader, between Plymouth and Exeter. Mr Hill

overtaken three motorcyclists including Paul Reebby, aged 19, a machine operator, of Pentland Close, Plymouth.

Reebby pulled in front of him and slowed down. Each time Mr Hill tried to overtake Reebby decreased speed.

The motorcyclists hemmed Mr Hill in, forcing him to stop, then Reebby punched Mr Hill in the face, breaking his dentures and causing severe cuts.

Law Report May 2 1984 Privy Council

Withdrawal of consent during intercourse means rape

Kaitamaki v The Queen
Before Lord Scarman, Lord Elwy-Jones, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Brightman and Sir George Baker
[Judgment delivered May 1]

By the criminal law of New Zealand, a man who penetrates a woman with his penis, and who still becomes guilty of rape by continuing the sexual intercourse after a stage when he realized that she was no longer consenting.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held in dismissing an appeal by the appellant, Kaitamaki, from the majority decision of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand on March 19, 1980, who dismissed his appeal against his conviction by a jury in the Supreme Court of New Zealand on March 15, 1979, of rape.

Section 127 of the Crimes Act 1961 provides: "For the purposes of this Part of this Act, sexual intercourse is complete upon penetration."

Section 128 provides: "(1) Rape is the act of a male person having sexual intercourse with a woman or girl - (a) Without her consent - (b) By the use of force or threat of force - (c) By the use of fraud - (d) By the use of any other means which renders her incapable of consenting."

Lord Scarman said that in the early hours of November 19, 1978, the appellant broke and entered a dwelling-house. The Crown case was that he then twice raped a young woman who was an occupier of the premises. There was no dispute that intercourse had taken place on two occasions but the defence was that the consented or that he honestly believed she was consenting.

The appellant gave evidence, his case being that after he had penetrated her for the second time he became aware that she was not consenting. He admitted, however, that he did not desist from intercourse.

In summing up that part of the

case the trial judge told the jury that if, having realized that she was not willing, the accused continued with the act of intercourse, it then became rape. It was contended that that direction was wrong in law.

The submission of the appellant's counsel raised a question as to the true construction of sections 127 and 128 of the Crimes Act 1961. He relied on the definition in section 127 to establish the proposition that rape was penetration without consent; that once penetration was complete the act of rape was concluded; and that intercourse, if it continued, was not rape, because for the purpose of the act it was complete upon penetration.

The Court of Appeal, by a majority, rejected the submission, expressing the opinion that the purpose of section 127 was to remove any doubts as to the minimum conduct needed to prove the fact of sexual intercourse. "Complete" was used in the statutory definition in the sense of having come into existence, but not in the sense of being at an end.

Sexual intercourse was a continuing act which only ended with withdrawal. The offence of rape was defined in section 128 as that of

"having" intercourse without consent.

Their Lordships agreed with the majority decision of the Court of Appeal, and with the reasons which they gave for rejecting the appellant's submission and for construing the two sections in the way in which they did.

Their Lordships were, however, disturbed by the course taken by the Crown in the trial. The indictment charged one offence of rape. The prosecution case was that there were two rapes. In the event, as could have been anticipated, there developed two different defences.

In fairness to the accused each rape should have been separately charged. Their Lordships were satisfied, however, that there had been no miscarriage of justice.

The Court of Appeal rejected the appellant's application for legal aid to prosecute an appeal to the Judicial Committee on the ground that the Court of Appeal had no jurisdiction under the Offenders Legal Aid Act 1954 to grant it. Their Lordships agreed with that judgment of the Court of Appeal.

Solicitors: Wray, Smith & Co; Allen & Overy.

Absolute obligation

Associated Bulk Carriers Ltd v Shell International Petroleum Company Ltd

A term in the "Shelvey 3" form charterparty that the master was bound to keep the tanks, pipes and pumps of a vessel always clean for the cargo specified in the charterparty imposed an absolute obligation on the owners, Mr Justice Neill held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on April 18 giving judgment for the respondent owners of the "Nordic Navigator" for US \$118,044 damage due to them from the appellant, Shell International Petroleum Company Ltd.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the term contrasted with the obligation

of cleanliness under article III, rule 1(c) of the Hague Rules and with another clause which required the owners to "exercise diligence".

The omission of these words from this term indicated that the owners' obligation to achieve the standard imposed was absolute.

However, that standard had to be related to the cargo for which the charterparty provided. As the specified cargo had been "crude oil and/or dirty petroleum products" intended for burning in power stations, the presence of a small quantity of coal in the tanks, which could not have damaged a power station's burners or any other equipment, did not amount to a breach of the absolute obligation.

Walesa defies riot police in Gdansk

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Lech Walesa, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, smuggled himself into a sedate Communist May Day march yesterday in Gdansk and, with hundreds of Solidarity supporters, flashed v-for-victory signs, unfurled anti-government banners and chanted "freedom for political prisoners" while passing a Tribune of shocked party officials.

The incident was typical of a day which saw thousands of supporters of the banned Solidarity Union trying either to infiltrate official processions or stage counter-rallies in several Polish cities.

Using high-pressure bursts of water, tear gas broadsides and rubber batons, the Zomo riot police dispersed the demonstrators, sometimes without resistance, sometimes encountering a volley of cobblestones. In Gdansk, the police stationed a huge water cannon, as upstart as a prehistoric animal, outside the apartment of Mr Walesa to break up a demonstration of about 1,000.

"I'm surrounded here at home," Mr Walesa said on the telephone. "And they are chasing people with water cannon. They washed my windows right now and they are deraching anyone who leans out of his window".

The street fighting was heavy in the Gdansk suburb of Wzreszcz, near the former headquarters of Solidarity. Youthful rioters from the railway track to use against the Zomo who, by most eyewitness accounts, were no tougher there than elsewhere in Poland.

Mr Walesa had managed to carry out his infiltration mission by squeezing himself and his supporters between two Communist factory delegations and pretending to be authorized participants. The police eventually moved in and seized Solidarity protesters a few years behind him but left the Solidarity leader unscathed. He was effectively organizing his first street protest since martial law.

The mood of the day was best expressed in Warsaw where, a few hundred yards away from the official march, the demonstration began after nine o'clock Mass at St John's Cathedral in the centre of the old town district.

At 9.45 the police sealed off most streets to prevent the congregation spilling into Castle Square. But five minutes later leaflets flew from the rooftops and a teenager, to loud applause, fixed a Solidarity flag to a lamppost.

The police called on the crowd to disperse and began to bang their riot shields.

The crowd, more than a thousand strong, chanted "freedom for the prisoners", "Lech Walesa" and the name of the Warsaw underground leader, "Zbyszek Bujak".

When the police started to spray water, the protesters, teenagers and middle-aged women, tumbled out of the narrow alleys into the picturesque old market square. For many minutes one corner of the square was completely occupied by armoured riot police swinging their white batons, while the opposite corner was filled with shouting demonstrators. In between, many people continued to drink coffee and eat ice-cream in the sunshine, making the use of tear gas impossible.

Later the protesters walked the two miles to the church of St Stanislaw Koska to hear the radical priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko. The congregation was again assaulted by police after the service and tried to regroup near the Warsaw steelworks. That march was also broken up with bursts from water cannon and running, truncheon-waving police.

Celebrating May Day across the globe with tear gas, marches, slogans and rivalry



Workers in Red Square carry a photograph of President Chernenko addressing Parliament while he waves to the May Day crowd.

Chernenko and old guard conduct it with aplomb

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mayday celebrations in Moscow yesterday confirmed the growing personality cult surrounding President Chernenko and the ascendancy of the Kremlin "old guard". The Red Square parade also marked political oblivion for the late President Andropov, who died less than three months ago.

With Moscow a sea of rippling red flags, thousands of well-drilled workers marched past the Lenin Mausoleum under a sunny spring sky, bearing giant portraits of Mr Chernenko and blow-ups of the *Pravda* report of his meeting with steelworkers last Sunday. There were also huge placards attacking American nuclear policy, including a giant Uncle Sam with Mr Reagan's features, although the anti-American theme was rather more muted than last year.

Mr Chernenko's absence from last year's parade gave rise to speculation about his political future. Yesterday, there was no doubt that whatever the extent of the real power he wields behind the scenes, he is the unchallenged national figurehead. Slogans curled from his speeches dominated the procession.

There was also deliberate emphasis on the old guard of Politburo leaders who backed his bid for power and who control much of Soviet policy. Marshal Ustinov, Mr Gromyko and Mr Tikhonov, the Defence, Foreign and Prime Ministers, followed Mr Chernenko on to the top of the mausoleum. All but the marshal wore the same heavy overcoat and homburg hat, the regulation issue Politburo spring outfit.

In some parts of Moscow the three senior men also followed Mr Chernenko in the rows of Politburo portraits hung from public buildings, even though strictly speaking the portraits should be in Russian alphabetical order (as they were on Red Square), with the young generation of Mr Aliev, Mr Vorotnikov and Mr Gorbachev following the President.

The average Politburo age in Lenin's time was well under 50, but is now nearly 70. Mr Chernenko is 72.

Yesterday, Mr Chernenko looked down on numerous likenesses of himself as Red Square echoed with canned cheering and marching music from loudspeakers. There was no mention of Mr Andropov or of Andropov-era slogans on the need for discipline. Most of the Politburo paused to look at Mr Andropov's grave by the Kremlin wall as they filed up on top of the mausoleum.

Although the parade is tightly disciplined and marchers are hand-picked, massive security was provided by thousands of police officers and plainclothes KGB agents, with the army present in force but discreetly tucked away behind buildings and in metro stations. The centre of Moscow was sealed off. There is no military element in the parade, which underlines communist solidarity and brotherhood.

The parade was boycotted by most Nato ambassadors, a practice which began four years ago after the invasion of Afghanistan.

The more anti-western slogans included "Washington's actions threaten peace", with a float depicting a missile being fired from the Capitol, another showed the Capitol surrounded by a GI's helmet, which in Russian propaganda has become a symbol of American militarism and irresponsibility.

Little solidarity among workers of Europe

By Our Foreign Staff

May Day, traditionally a date marking workers' solidarity, failed to produce much fellow feeling in Western Europe.

West Germany: Trade union and opposition leaders warned Chancellor Kohl that there would be strikes if demands for a shorter working week were ignored.

This year's sharp focus on unemployment contrasted starkly with the concentration last year on the campaign against deployment of nuclear missiles in West Germany.

Italy: The three main trade union confederations held separate celebrations, showing the deep split in the labour movement over the Government's attempts to cut inflation. It was the first time since the 1960s that leaders of the three big confederations had failed to celebrate May Day together in Rome.

Greece: Workers demanded better working conditions, more trade union freedom and higher wages. Work in both private and public sectors was at a standstill.

Spain: Tens of thousands took part in rival rallies organized by the country's two majority trade unions who are split over the Socialist Government's industry policies.

Dominican Republic: The 55 victims of riots against food price rises were mourned as the five main unions pledged to organize a general strike unless the Government revoked price hikes.

Singapore: Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, said mothers should be encouraged to work to help phase out foreign labour over the next eight years. About 10 per cent of the island's workforce are foreigners.

Czechoslovakia: President Husak, at the main rally in Prague, condemned American imperialism and accused Washington of launching a new round of the arms race. The United States "bears responsibility for the present dangerous international development," he said. About 250,000 people attended the demonstration.

Bikini islanders ask Washington to keep 30-year promise

From Our Correspondent
Washington

One thousand Pacific islanders have begun a final effort to return to their tiny Bikini Atoll home which the US contaminated with 12 years of atomic and hydrogen bomb tests after the Second World War.

The people of Bikini, a circular chain of 26 islands about 2,500 miles south-west of Hawaii, claim that the US has a moral and legal obligation to clean up their home and help them return to what they have described as their "promised land".

The Bikinians live on Kili Island, a 200-acre dot in the Pacific 400 miles south-east of Bikini, which they call a prison. The US set up a \$6m (£4.28m) trust for them giving each person \$35 a month.

This week their representatives began a campaign to plead their case in court, in Congress and later at the UN in New York to make the US live up to a promise the islanders say it made 30 years ago.

A suit filed in Hawaii by the islanders this week sought an injunction requiring the US to make Bikini Atoll safe and return the exiles speedily to their home. The Bikinians hope to testify before Congress.

They also "have" appear before the UN Trusteeship Council in an attempt to get the world body to apply further pressure on the US Government. Bikini and the rest of the Marshall Islands were put under US administration by the UN in 1947.

Two pamphlets distributed after the killings, claimed responsibility and this was confirmed by two captured rebels during military interrogation.

"Although there was no evidence against any of the defendants, and there was abundant evidence - including confessions - against some members of the NPA, neither the military nor the Kabankalan (police) filed any case against anyone for the ambush of Mayor Sola and his companions."

The lawyers also denounced the many anomalies and irregularities in the murder investigation, including the "loss" of military and police notes on the ambush. "Such a loss, in a case as important as this, is explainable only by the need to suppress facts that could turn out to be inconvenient to the military. Coincidentally - or was it intentionally? - the sketch, photographs and other investigative notes of the Kabankalan police taken on the day of the ambush... all have been lost."

The ambushers were a group who were both skilled in the use of high-powered firearms and experienced in carrying out ambushes. Not one of the accused has been proven to have had such skill or experience.

Communist rebels of the New People's Army (NPA), in

Gangsters murder minister in Bogotá

From Geoffrey Matthews
Bogotá

President Betancur yesterday imposed a state of siege throughout Colombia after the assassination of his Justice Minister by gunmen believed to have been hired by drug racketeers.

Señor Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who had waged a personal crusade against the "Colombian connexion" drug racket, was hit by 11 bullets in an ambush as he arrived by car at his home in Bogotá.

The shots were fired by the pillbox passenger of a passing motor cycle. Security agents pursued it, killing one rider and capturing the other. The detained youth comes from Medellin, the financial centre of the drug mafias.

He is reported to have said he was paid about \$20,000 (£13,300) for the attack. No one has yet claimed responsibility.

The killing of Señor Lara Bonilla, who had received many death threats, but had scorned wearing a bullet-proof vest offered by the United States Embassy in Bogotá, shocked the nation.

Imposing the state of siege, a shaken President Betancur said on national television: "We are not going to allow ourselves to be annihilated by cowardice and crime... they are not going to continue destroying our society."

He promised that the Government would continue its campaign to stamp out the cocaine and marijuana racket.

In March Señor Betancur imposed a state of siege in four southern departments after a wave of guerrilla actions by the M19 movement and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

At the time the Government said the guerrillas were being financed by cocaine racketeers. Since then the Government's Peace Commission has negotiated a treaty with the Marxist-Leninist Farc, due to take effect on May 28.



Señor Lara Bonilla: Hit by 11 bullets in ambush.

Special courts set up to try Sudan offenders

Khartoum, (AFP) - Emergency courts are being set up in Sudan to try alleged violations of the state of emergency which was declared on Sunday by President Nimeiry.

The Sudanese News Agency quoted the President as saying that nine courts would be announced in Khartoum in 48 hours and would immediately start trying breaches of the state of emergency law, certain penal code crimes, customs violations, smuggling of commodities worth more than 10,000 Sudan pounds (about £4,300) and acts hindering the application of Islamic laws.

President Nimeiry said sentences passed by the emergency courts would be carried out immediately, except for death sentences, which would be submitted to him for confirmation. Each court will be chaired by a civilian magistrate, with two officers of the regular forces, including the armed forces, the police and the prison services, as members.

Reagan proclaims success of his pilgrimage

From Nicholas Ashford,
Washington

President Reagan returned to American soil yesterday proclaiming that his six-day trip to China had been a success and had established a "new level of understanding" between Washington and Peking.

Arriving in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he is to have a 30-minute meeting with the Pope today, the President said that although fundamental differences existed between the two countries "we found that we could agree on a great many things".

Despite the absence of any significant diplomatic breakthroughs, American officials seem well satisfied with the way the visit went - a view that seems to be shared by Mr Reagan's Chinese hosts.

While in Peking Mr Reagan signed agreements on taxation, cultural exchanges and nuclear energy cooperation. A more important if less tangible result was to allay Chinese doubts about his commitment to a strong relationship with Peking.

Although Taiwan remains a big obstacle, limiting the pace of improved relations, his visit appears to have achieved, in Mr Reagan's words, "an understanding and a confidence in us".

The President's visit was not all plain sailing, however, no attempt was made to disguise differences over Taiwan, US policy towards Central America, or the deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe. Nor did the President's attempts to draw them into a common stand against the Soviet Union.

Chinese television twice censored anti-Soviet passages from his speeches. And during the talks Chinese leaders emphasised their independence and made it clear that they intended to keep trying to improve relations with Moscow.

Possibly the greatest achievement of the visit, however, was its impact on the US electorate. Long before Mr Reagan set out on his journey his campaign strategists had been saying the visit would be an important feature of his reelection effort.

Ties stronger despite lukewarm Peking

From David Bonavia, Peking

President Reagan left Shanghai for home yesterday after a week-long visit to China in which he was treated with courtesy but not enthusiasm.

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, who has had intensive talks with Mr Reagan, did not even accompany Mr and Mrs Reagan to Shanghai, China's biggest industrial city, as he was attending a rally in Peking linked to International Labour Day.

The most cordial reception was accorded the Reagans by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese elder statesman, last weekend. He invited Mrs Reagan to come to China again, and to bring her grandchildren.

China won a considerable increase in its access to American technology, especially nuclear power for peaceful uses, as an aspect of the presidential visit. But Mr Reagan was not permitted to tell the Chinese people - as he tried - about his idea that American society is based on God and religion, and that free enterprise is the best road to economic prosperity.

Leading article, page 11

Shaky Beirut Cabinet meets today

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Lebanon's Prime Minister, designate, Mr Rashid Karameh, intends to hold his first full cabinet meeting today despite continuing uncertainty over whether all nine ministers he has named will take part.

Mr Karameh's surprise announcement late on Monday night that he had selected a new Cabinet was a calculated gamble, given that he admitted he had not formally consulted the nominees to determine whether they were willing to serve.

And while seven of those appointed had agreed yesterday, the participation of two key Lebanese leaders - Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze chief and head of the Progressive Socialist Party, and Mr Nabih Berri, the leader of the Shia Muslim militia, Amal - was not certain.

Mr Berri declined public comment yesterday, despite repeated telephone calls from Mr Karameh and President Gemayel that he may reconsider his initial rejection of a cabinet post. Mr Berri said within an hour of Mr Karameh's announcement that he would not serve in the new Government because the portfolios offered opposition leaders "are far from any connexion with political decision-making".

Mr Berri, an attorney, was offered the Ministry of Justice, Water and Electricity, and Mr Jumblatt the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Tourism.

But both Mr Berri and Mr Jumblatt - who has kept his own counsel on the cabinet appointments - were called to Damascus yesterday for consultations with Syrian officials.

Syrian officials are expected to put pressure on both men to take in the new Government, which has been heralded by officially controlled radio in Syria as "a major hope for building the Lebanon of tomorrow".

US general killed while 'testing top secret jet'

Washington (Reuters) An Air Force general who died in a Nevada crash last week was flying a plane testing top secret new "Stealth" technology meant to make United States fighters and bombers invisible to enemy radar, *The Washington Post* reported.

Quoting informed sources, the newspaper said details surrounding the death on Thursday of Lieutenant-General Robert Bond, a highly-decorated veteran fighter pilot, in a small jet plane were being guarded by senior Air Force officials.

The stealth project was begun in 1977 to develop radically new kinds of military aircraft that could penetrate the Soviet Union's anti-aircraft defences.

Liberals lead

Ottawa (Reuters) - Canada's ruling Liberal Party, whose popularity has slumped during Mr Pierre Trudeau's last term of office, has overtaken opposition Conservatives in an opinion poll for the first time in two and a half years. The poll showed the Liberals with 46 per cent and the Conservatives 40 per cent.

Arab honoured

Tel Aviv (AFP) - For the first time an Arab Israeli has been nominated one of seven "exemplary citizens" who each year light the torch of independence to mark the Israeli National Day on May 8. He is Ali Yehia, aged 38.

Ethnic violence

Colombo (Reuters) - A Sri Lankan policeman was shot dead by suspected guerrillas in the eastern town of Kalmunna and the National Security Minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, revealed that a Tamil leader had been shot dead by police last week "while trying to escape from custody".

Dhaka deadlock

Dhaka (Reuters) - Bangladesh opposition leaders said to start a fresh campaign against military rule after talks broke down with President Ershad on the country's political future.

Punjab rioting

Delhi (Reuters) - Police used baton charges on Hindu rioters yesterday in Punjab, where the Indian Government has set up a task force to combat extremists. A policeman and reporter were injured when Hindu extremists stoned police in the border town of Ambala.

Andorra crisis

Andorra (AFP) - The Andorra Government has resigned after failing to push a law introducing income tax through the principality's 28-seat Parliament. Many of Andorra's 30,000 inhabitants refused to pay taxes, forcing the Government to suspend the law.

Ozal pessimistic



Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, said the chances of peace in the Gulf were bleak. He was speaking after returning to Ankara from a four-day visit to Tehran.

Dalai Lama visit

Tokyo (AP) - The Dalai Lama has arrived in Japan to attend ceremonies marking the 1,150th anniversary of the death of Kobo Daishai, the founder of the Shingon sect of Buddhism.

Ebony and ivory

Johannesburg (Reuters) - The editor of Petersburg's *Northern Review* has refused to publish a picture showing black and white pop musicians of the group Juluka arm-in-arm because he said it would offend readers.

GOD'S KINGDOM

accepts no error, no untruth, no evil. The only way to God is by Jesus. All should acknowledge Jesus as Messiah and Saviour, and put His teaching into practice.

Love is the basis and the essence - love of God and love of our fellow beings. We are to forgive and show mercy. We are not to oppress or kill.

All face the Judgement. Those with strong faith - active in obeying the Lord's commands - are abundantly rewarded.

Frank Jacobs, Medway ME1 1YZ.

Guerrillas retreat as Soviet forces push through Panjshir valley

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Ahmed Shah Masood, regarded by Western diplomats as the Afghan rebels' most effective and attractive young leader, has made a tactical withdrawal from the key Panjshir valley before a massive Soviet advance there.

The Soviet incursion into the valley, details of which are only now emerging, was described by diplomats in Delhi yesterday as the biggest military operation since the invasion four years ago.

According to the official Afghan media, the "last nests" of the professional criminal, Ahmed Shah Masood, have been destroyed, after the Soviet onslaught.

Western diplomats, however, insisted that Masood had withdrawn from the valley two days before the attack began.

"If he had been captured - alive or dead - the regime would have been sure to have made a production number of it," one diplomat said.

The diplomats add that he had not intended to withdraw before the attack but the arrest of some agents belonging to Khab, the Afghan secret police, and even including one of his cousins, made him realize that his pattern of operation was too well known for his own safety.

The Soviet invasion of the valley, which plunges 70 miles deep into the Hindu Kush and dominates the main road to Kabul south of the Salang pass, was sparked off by Masood's refusal to continue a year-long peace treaty with the Russians, which had allowed him free movement in and out of the valley and let the Russians hold a small garrison there.

When the treaty was not renewed both sides began to prepare for the resumption of hostilities but the key moment came when a convoy of fuel and food bound for Kabul was ambushed on the road from Salang.

Witnesses report that the road for two miles was littered with wrecked vehicles at

Walang close to Jaba-us-Siraj near the mouth of the valley.

On the same day the Soviet garrison in the valley at Anawar was attacked by Mujahidin forces and some of the 300 Soviet troops within were said to have been captured.

Elsewhere the next night a combined force of mujahidin, including Masood's following and men from other groups, attacked the Bagram air base.

By this time, however, the high-level saturation bombing of the valley by Badger bombers from the Soviet Union had begun.

The Western diplomats report that Kabul is now awash with highly coloured and no doubt exaggerated reports of what happened next, but the following account is based on reports of two or more independent Afghan sources, including

some who proved to have been highly accurate after the last Soviet incursion into the valley 18 months ago.

Three separate Soviet armoured columns began heading for the valley during the week beginning April 15.

One consisting of 200 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks left Samarkand near Jalalabad on April 17 and took a roundabout route avoiding Kabul to staging positions close to the mouth of the valley.

Another left Ghazni and a third left Khar-E-Khona on the outskirts of the capital at about the same time.

A bridge at Mattak, destroyed by Masood's guerrillas a week earlier, was replaced by a military bridge, and on April 21 a task force of up to 15,000 Russians and 2,000 regime troops supported by 400 to 600 tanks and armoured personnel carriers entered the valley.

The Western diplomats say there was no indication that the task force attempted to enter the valley through any of the passes from Laghman Kohistan Badakhshan.

A Panjshiri who left the valley at the time reported that all the passes were now open, but a guide was needed to slip by the minefields planted by the mujahidin.

There was little fighting in the valley and most of the Soviet casualties - of which highly exaggerated reports have been received - seem to have been due to the mines.

By the end of the week the Russians were reported to have passed the central valley town of Ruka and to be heading for Anjuman at the head of the valley.

The mujahidin withdrew before them into the side valleys, which were largely ignored by the invaders.

All sources reporting to the Western diplomats say the invading troops have been systematically destroying houses, crops and livestock as they sweep through the countryside.



Ahmed Masood: Withdrawn before the attack

Bitter pill for Greek Socialists

From Mario Modiano, Athens

If the voting pattern among the country's 25,000 doctors is a reliable pointer, the ruling Greek Socialists should brace themselves for a spectacular defeat in next month's crucial elections for the European Parliament.

Greek doctors went to the polls on Sunday (and Monday in the main cities) to elect executives for their respective medical associations, most of which were controlled by Socialist-Communist alliances.

The election returns in Athens, Salonika and Piraeus, where 15,000 doctors practise, showed a dramatic reversal of past trends. The Socialists were ahead, with more than half of the vote and seats, with Socialists down to between 20 and 25 per cent and the Communists between 9 and 14 per cent.

The trend was reflected in the 43 medical associations in provincial cities. Conservative doctors led with an average of 55 per cent. Socialists lost heavily with clear majorities in only four cities where they were in league with the Communists.

The Socialists' defeat reflects the strong opposition of doctors to the Government's national health system which forces them to opt for joining a system which has neither the infrastructure, nor the money to operate, or going exclusively into private practice in a country where the opening of new private clinics has been banned.

The Socialist setback in the medical associations confirms the political trends which became apparent in recent months in elections in professional associations.

Hunters stranded during Canadian seal cull

From John Best, Ottawa

Spring has come as a mixed blessing this year to Canada's east coast island province of Newfoundland.

Shifting pack ice, some of it pushed shoreward by passing North Atlantic icebergs, has locked in long stretches of the 300-mile eastern shore of the island from St John's, the capital, north to Labrador.

An exceptionally severe winter in Canada's Atlantic regions is undoubtedly responsible for the unusual conditions, which for the past week have played havoc with shipping and isolated some communities.

A man died - apparently of natural causes - on one of 11 fishing boats that were trapped for about a week near the Horse Islands, off Newfoundland's north-east coast.

In Trinity Bay, 75 miles west of St John's, 33 seal hunters were stranded on an ice-floe for most of a day after shifting winds broke up a field of ice across which they had been scampers to reach a seal herd. Another shift in the wind eventually blew them back to shore.

Canadian coast guard ice-breakers have been kept busy for several days freeing cargo ships stuck in the ice.

For seal hunters, the crunching ice-pack is a Godsend, as it bore thousands of hard seals in close to shore, where they have been harvested for their meat and furs - a case of the hunter coming to the hunt.

Hundreds of Newfoundlanders flocked to the shoreline for the rare experience of seeing at first hand a seal cull, a storied and traditional part of the island's way of life.



Spanish judges accused

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

The Spanish Supreme Court has agreed to try one of its own members, along with another judge, in a case arising from the unexpected release of a Mafia leader, who was awaiting the outcome of an Italian extradition request, according to reports published in Madrid yesterday.

The Supreme Court justice, Señor Jaime Rodríguez Hermida, was accused of corruption and of involvement in a miscarriage of justice. The other

judge, Señor Ricardo Varon Cobos of the National Audencia, was charged only with the latter offence.

Judge Varon Cobos freed the Mafia figure, Signor Antonio "Tonino" Bardellino, on bail of 5m pesetas (£2,000) in Madrid on January 30, after a conversation with the Supreme Court justice, who allegedly pressed for Signor Bardellino's release. He subsequently left the country.

The corruption charge is related to a gold bracelet

Climbdown on Nato frigate

From Frederick Bonart, Brussels

The Nato frigate project will proceed as planned because the United States has unconditionally withdrawn its qualifications to the previously-agreed memorandum of understanding. Mr David Ashbridge, the US permanent representative to Nato, formally signed the memorandum on Monday, allowing the feasibility study for a common Nato frigate replacement for the 1990s (NFR90) to go ahead.

Mr Peter Antico, a spokesman for the American delegation, told *The Times* that in view of the unfavourable reaction of the other partners in the project - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain - the US Department of Defence was able to overcome the legal impediments which had been holding up agreement. On the instructions of Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Sec-

retary, all eight reservations were withdrawn and the memo as originally agreed was signed.

The Nato frigate project had been one of the success stories in the long and frequently unfruitful search by Nato and member states to produce equipment in common. A number of allied navies were able to align their replacement.

They accepted that there should be common hull variants for the different tasks of the frigate. These are anti-submarine warfare, air defence and convoy protection. The hulls will be able to accommodate important equipment such as engines, weapon systems and command and control installations in module form.

This would give maximum operational flexibility and scope for the economic and industrial interests of countries involved as all of them would be able to take part in the production at some stage. The sharing of technical know-how is considered a big step forward.

This last point caused the problem. Although the project had been going for more than two years and negotiations had been successfully concluded after 18 months, the US produced eight last-minute qualifications at the signing ceremony on April 11 which would have nullified the agreement. These concerned the safeguarding of American "intellectual property" while requiring access to that of the other parties. "Heads we win, tails you lose," one European official said.

By their unconditional withdrawal of these qualifications, the Americans have given a fair wind to the project.

"Three years ago, the Europeans would have accepted them without a murmur," an official said, "but there is a very different spirit now".



Grande dame of *The Golden Age*: Irene Worth with Jeff Daniels and Stockard Channing

Theatre in New York

Controversy surrounds Tony rules

This is the time of year to start working out odds for the Tony nominations. There is a scrap over the chosen few; this season a big one has taken place weeks before the nominations are even announced. The committee which rules on Tony eligibility has stuck to a 1982 ruling that a Broadway theatre is defined by its number of seats rather than by its locale or union contracts. Thus... and a *Nightingale Song* and *Painting Churches*, playing in traditionally Broadway locations and under Equity Broadway contracts but in theatres seating fewer than the committee-mandated 499, were denied eligibility in spite of impassioned pleas and petitions by theatre professionals.

The eligibility committee blunder recalls another last year when it ruled that Kathy Bates and Anne Pitlor could not be jointly nominated for *Milk and Honey*. Because they were truly inseparable, their individual nominations almost surely dissipated votes and lost them the award. Now a similar injustice has occurred with... and a *Nightingale Song*, which would certainly have garnered a Best Actress nomination - and possibly the award - for the newcomer Joan Allen's radiant portrayal of C. P. Taylor's heroine. There is no performance on any stage in town to equal Miss Allen's, and she has simply been robbed.

The arbitrariness of these rulings galls most of the previously two actors were jointly nominated - and won - for *Starry, Starry* and *David Rabe's* *Screamers* was nominated as Best Play when it ran in the very theatre now housing... and a *Nightingale Song*. Whose "liberal" conscience dictates that it is permissible for black South African actors and anti-war dramas to compete for Tonys but that superlative white actresses in non-political plays do not receive the same opportunities? Such inequities are a disgrace.

Better news is that *Glengarry Glen Ross* has arrived at the Golden Theatre, been

acclaimed David Mamet's best work yet, and looks like serious competition for *The Real Thing* as Best Play. It would be pleasant to report that *Noises Off* also has a real chance but while it should be nominated, it is bound to suffer the short shrift given even the most difficult farce, for none has won since the Best Play award was instituted in 1947.

As award material or simply good entertainment, the much-anticipated Broadway debut of *The Dining Room*'s author, A. R. Gurney, Jr., proves melancholy. *The Golden Age* (Jack Lawrence Theatre) is a faint *Aspen Papers* echo about a professor-writer (Jeff Daniels) who seeks out a reclusive Twenties social and literary grande dame (Irene Worth) for her possible possession of a lost chapter of *The Great Gatsby*. He is baited into hanging around and romancing her alcoholic granddaughter (Stockard Channing) while working on the reclusive's biography and hoping to get the Fitzgerald fragment. Though Mr Gurney's fun at the expense of both outmoded and newfangled social conventions occasionally surfaces, the play is too long-winded to set sail. In spite of valiant, attractive performances, the characters are never credible.

The Human Comedy, another Broadway entry, moved up from a successful run at the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theatre, should not make the producers of *La Cage aux folles* worry about losing their chance of Best Musical, but at least one of its supporting players, Bonnie Koloc - displaying an exceptionally lovely and strong voice in her Broadway debut - may be a winner. The show's nostalgic representation of small-town America during the Second World War, based on a film scenario and novel by William Saroyan, has been set by the *Hair* composer Galt McDermott to the sweetest songs on Broadway.

Rounding off the Broadway openings is a revival of Clifford Odets's *Awake and*

Sing at the Circle in the Square. Directed by Circle's founder and artistic head, Ted Mann, the revival stars Nancy Marchand and features several fine performers acting in a jumble of accents and styles. There is also an Off-Broadway revival of Odets's *Paradise Lost* at the Mirror Theatre. Directed by Mirror's founder and artistic head, John Strasberg (son of the late Method guru Lee Strasberg), the revival stars Geraldine Page and features several other fine performers acting in a jumble of accents and styles. Odets's memory is being honoured with decidedly mixed blessings.

Though most coveted, the Tonys are not the only awards in town. Off-Broadway productions are eligible for numerous citations, and a plethora have recently entered the lists. No season feels quite complete without a mystery or thriller, and the Circle Repertory Company fills that niche nicely with John Bishop's *The Harvesting*. This tale of a small-town detective unravelling an old family tragedy has surprises, emotional punch and some hilarious police radio calls covering quick scene changes.

Faring better than with the poor production of *Mensch Meier* in January is the West German playwright Franz Xaver Kroetz. The noted experimental group Mabou Mines is presenting Kroetz's *Through the Leaves* (Interart Theatre), a sort of satirical elaboration of Ben Franklin's advice to take older women as mistresses because they are so grateful. Even when partially nude for some fairly clinical sex scenes, Ruth Meleczek and Frederick Neumann make their characters, of a middle-aged woman who owns and runs a small butcher's shop and her insensitive, evasive club of a lover, so real that they hardly seem to be acting. Joanne Akalaitis's staging enables Kroetz to emerge as a playwright with a stark, penetrating voice.

Holly Hill

Concerts

Söderström/Vignoles

St John's/Radio 3

In her autobiography Elisabeth Söderström regrets having to programme her song recitals so far in advance. Instead, she suggests, she should just turn up with a willing accomplice and a huge pile of songs and see what she feels like singing and what the audience would like to hear.

That spontaneity, which anyone who has heard her introduce a complete recital as she did her concert on Monday will know, is central to her nature: her loveliest interpretations take wing from it. And perhaps it is commensurately difficult for her to sound truly convinced by anything she is not inspired by at that moment: there is remarkably little cover of mere professional smoothness in her singing.

That may explain how this recital veered between the heights of accomplishment and a feeling of unease. The programme was intricately constructed, with Goethe settings by Liszt and Schubert leading to Russian song by Tchaikovsky, and Rachmaninov. Sometimes, in the Liszt songs, intonation wavered and breath control seemed lacking, but then the magnificent "Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh" took wing, with all the operatic flamboyance for which Liszt's songs are so unjustly criticized (they remain a neglected treasure trove).

In Schubert, too, she took a while to find the focus in her voice but then it flowered in a quite overwhelming "Erlkönig", every word weighted with meaning, the lines historically projected or scarcely breathed, as great a portrayal of the art of declamation as one could wish for. Russian song in the original

language is Söderström's element. She can bring a desolate intensity to Rachmaninov's "Loneliness" tinged with a subtlety few can match; but turns as convincingly to the rapturously repeated calls of Tchaikovsky's "The Cuckoo".

Her greatest art, more than singing, rather an elevated music-drama, was saved for the contrasted encores: a rhapsodic, heart-breaking declaration of love by Greig, and a skittish Sibelius portrait of everyday life in the workaday city, which apply sent us all back to tapping on our typewriters and answering the telephone. Superb accompaniments from Roger Vignoles, luminous in Liszt, sharp-edged in Schubert, each song characterized with flexible force.

Nicholas Kenyon

ECO/Kuhn

Festival Hall

However arbitrary the concept of award and however meaningless the use of the word "best" in the context of musical activity, Kiri's Kanawa's *Chants d'Auvergne* was an understandable choice for Best British Classical Recording of 1983; and her performance on Monday was further justification.

Few pieces release so fully and directly the heart of Dame Kiri's artistry: the delighted rolling and tasting of strange vowels in the mouth in Canteleoue's "Lou Bousou", or the warm reflections of blurring line and harmony of "Lo Fiolaire". Soloists from the English Chamber Orchestra to equal joy their parts, with José-Luis García in his element as the rustic fiddler. An artist as instinctive as

Dame Kiri is never happier than when sheer beauty of sound can blossom out of her voice unimpeded by the constraints of language. For words can, and sometimes do, confuse the issue for her, as *Les nuits d'été* reminded us in Berlin: the voice glides along the music's surface as if it were.

In her quite outstanding recording of the work, this instinctive sense of warmth and freshness the score's fine, austere sensibility, holding the two in near-perfect balance. But, without equally disciplined preparation and the meticulous ear of a Barenboim to guide her, Dame Kiri was adrift long before the last song's voyage out. The very fragility of such an earnestly intuitive response needs the support of orchestral direction far more discerning than that of Gustav Kuhn; its generous though generalized nature requires even more specific attention to nuance of timing and instrumental balance.

But it was not to be. Exaggerated drawing back of tempi, smudged pitch and rhythm, were further symptoms of a slackly and insufficiently prepared reading. Ravel's *Pavane pour le Prince de Capri* and Schubert's Third Symphony framed the evening. Both were happier in the idea than in the turgid, at times aggressive, realization, though Thea King's

clannet solos in the Schubert brought just the ventilation of wit and humanity that the performance needed.

Hilary Finch

Handel Festival

St George's, Hanover Square

The consistently high quality of Handel's music never ceases to amaze. After the might and wisdom of *Solomon* last Saturday, the London Handel Festival continued its celebrations on Monday with a remarkable crop of altogether less well-known pieces.

The most remarkable of them was the psalm *Laudate Pueri Dominum*, the earlier of two settings composed in Handel's youth. Nobody knows exactly when the work was written, but surely its extravagantly ornate manner suggests that it belongs to the time of Handel's stay in Rome, in his early twenties. If so, it adds further to a canon of breathtakingly original and exuberant works composed there.

In any event, it presented the soloist, Emma Kirkby, with a severe test for which she proved well equipped. The fast florid passages were admirably controlled, and she applied a subtle vibrato wherever the music needed it. Indeed the sudden

Television

Different cultures

The Golden Land (BBC1) was, at least in part, a programme about Jewish immigration to the United States; this has been the subject of so many cinematic melodramas that the story now seems a familiar one, and as a result it becomes difficult to treat in an interesting manner. Desmond Wilcox, who was both writer and presenter, tried to resolve the problem by glancing only briefly at Ellis Island and New York before concentration upon the other coast, the "golden land" of the title. In Los Angeles, it seems, has more Jews than either Tel Aviv or Jerusalem; it also has more film stars than either of those cities, and this was a documentary about the position of Jews in a culture quite different from any other. It is hard to be a human being in California, let alone anything more specific.

And so it was that the T-shirts there have emblems saying "Kosher Kid", and the restaurants advertise "Kosher Burritos"; the Wilshire Boulevard Temple has been constructed in Byzantine style, like the cinemas, and apparently the most significant fact about its rabbi is that he married Norma Shearer and Irving Thalberg. Bernard Schwartz, alias Tony Curtis, enlivened an otherwise depressing vista with a few risqué jokes. Marvin Mitchellson, the lawyer, was more serious although perhaps he has a right to be - his office overlooks a country club where membership is still refused to Jews.

The programme concentrated too heavily upon the many generations of the Mitchellson family, however, since with the exception of Marvin and his strong-willed mother they seemed a somewhat unprepossessing group. And that was the problem with the first episode of this series: it was excessively anecdotal, and wasted too much time on people who had too little to say. The interviews and old film-clips were mixed with a solemn commentary, to very little effect. Since most of the subjects seemed to be of a conventionally American type, the nature of their Jewishness was never established and so, inevitably, the exercise became rather inconclusive. If there were points to be made, or conclusions to be reached, they should have been presented at least forcefully enough to create some impression.

Peter Ackroyd

Ruins and Follies

Maclean

If Englishmen do not, on the whole, build ready-made ruins any more, at least they still lovingly look after and restore the clearly the English praise of folly dies hard. Or so one would gather from the most recent entries in the delightful show *Ruins and Follies*, at the Maclean Gallery until Friday, where we find depictions dating from this very year of the newly restored Convent in the Woods at Stourhead, not to mention three of Graham Rust's tiny Capriccios in the rococo taste.

But most of the show reflects on the eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century taste for crumbling glories of departed time, and the widespread desire, where they were not readily available for pleasingly melancholy contemplation, to recreate them. We have, of course, a good selection of Piranesi reflecting on the wreckage of ancient Rome, and Luigi Rossi a few years later reflecting in a more strictly Neo-Classical fashion on the same. More Romantic visions are embodied in works like George Richard Pain's *Caus Marius* at the

Galleries

Ruins of Carthage (1831), in which one suspects the Irish architect may be grandly looking ahead to the glamorous ruin of his own country houses.

The story of genuine ruins is brought into the twentieth century with an unromantic bump in Nevinson's powerful picture of First World War devastation in *Boesinghe Farm*, and the whole thing monumentalized in the very imposing painting by Jean Baptiste Mauze *Le Temps montrant les ruines qu'il amène, et les chefs-d'œuvre qu'il laisse en déshérence*, which is closely related to the decorations

Mauze devised for the Antique Jewels Room of the Louvre in 1822.

After this, it is rather a relief to return to the happy silliness of follies and grotesques and flimsy facades put up to close a prospect and edge a parterre. The number and variety of essentially useless buildings erected in Britain during the eighteenth century are well indicated in prints and architects' drawings, taking us into a strangely alien dream world, possible only before the dream of ruin came too close to being a present nightmare.

John Russell Taylor

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

FREDERICA VON STADE CONCERT CANCELLED

FREDERICA VON STADE is ill and has been advised by her doctor to withdraw from her forthcoming engagements in Great Britain, including her Celebrity Concert at The Royal Opera House on May 7 at 8.00pm.

REFUNDS

Ticketholders will receive full refunds by sending tickets along with full name and address to Von Stade Refunds, Royal Opera House P.O. Box No. 6, London WC2E 7QA. OR IN PERSON at The Box Office 48 Floral Street, 10am-8pm, Mon-Sat.

SPECTRUM

What are the best books of poetry published since the war? As a guide to the growing demand for poetry in Britain, *Poetry Review* commissioned a survey among poets and critics. Mick Imlah reports

Bards of our time

Suppose that the publishers thought there was any point in a campaign to sell poetry. What books would or should we be encouraged to read? In response to the Book Marketing Council's "Best Novels of Our Time" promotion, the magazine *Poetry Review* has conducted a survey among poets and critics of all tastes to assess which might be regarded as the 13 best books of verse published since 1939.

The idea was that these should be single volumes, and not collected or selected editions of the kind that people usually buy; not only to match the "novels" list more closely, but because to poet and publisher alike the small book - whether it contains one long poem, a sequence, or a set of shorter pieces - is the staple of poetic production, the form in which most poems are originally designed to be enjoyed.

The trouble with this is that several admired writers, notably the riddly American Wallace Stevens, are only available here in collected editions; that the achievement of others (such as perhaps Elizabeth Bishop) looks minor until their work is gathered together, and that some poets' best work is concentrated in one volume (Sylvia Plath) while others have spread their success evenly across six or seven books. Dreadlocked West Indian bard Benjamin Zephaniah goes so far as to suggest that most of the best poetry doesn't get published at all.

So some of the selectors (such as Oxford critic John Bayley, who chose 14 titles, or mystical poet Peter Redgrove, who found a way to incorporate the long Middle English poem *Piers Plowman*) chafed against the rules.

Others, like the Ranter, Seething Wells from Barnsley, who favours such titles as *Hal Hal Hal* by George Thaw, chafed against poetry itself. Still, the 13 titles that emerged as the most popular (see list) represent an interesting compendium of current taste.

THE POETS

- 1 Philip Larkin *High Windows* (1974)
- 2 Sylvia Plath *Ariel* (1965)
- 3 T. S. Eliot *Four Quartets* (1964)
- 4 Philip Larkin *Whitsun Weddings* (1964)
- 5 Robert Lowell *Life Studies* (1959)
- 6 Ted Hughes *The Hawk in the Rain* (1957)
- 7 Seamus Heaney *North* (1975)
- 8 Ted Hughes *Crow* (1970)
- 9 Elizabeth Bishop *Geography III* (1976)
- 10 W. H. Auden *Another Time* (1940)
- 11 Basil Bunting *Briggflatts* (1966)
- 12 Keith Douglas *Complete Poems* (1979)
- 13 Ezra Pound *The Pisan Cantos* (1949)

THE JUDGES

NEIL ASTLEY - Director Bloodaxe Books; JONATHAN BARKER - Librarian, Arts Council Poetry Library; JOHN BAYLEY - Professor, Oxford University & Critic; JAMES BERRY - West Indian Poet; ALAN BROWN - Poet, Chairman of the Poetry Society; JOHN DAREY - Professor, Oxford University & Critic; GAVIN EWART - Poet; MICHAEL HOROWITZ - Editor, New Departures; JOHN LUCAS - Lecturer & Critic; MURIEL MCGILLICUDD - User Poet; IAN MCGILLICUDD - Poet, Performer; ANDREW MOTION - Poet, Editor of *Chatter Poetry*; CHARLES OSBORNE - Literature Director, Arts Council; CRAIG RAINE - Poet, Editor at Faber; PETER REDGROVE - Poet; PENELOPE SHUTTLE - Poet; SEETHING WELLS - "Ranter" Poet; HUGO WILLIAMS - Poet; BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH - Dub Poet.

The first thing that the chart reveals is the extent of American influence. There is a reasonable contention to be heard these days that poets such as Pound and Eliot (in the 1910s and 1920s), the insurance official Stevens (around the 1940s), the boorish Robert Lowell, the quietly influential Elizabeth Bishop, the long-bearded whisky-crazed John Berryman, the agonized Sylvia Plath (in the nerve-racked 1950s and 1960s), and most recently the fashionable New Yorker John Ashbery - dragged from a gutter, so the story goes, by Yale Professor Harold Bloom - have shifted the centre of activity in English language poetry across the Atlantic.

The chart bears this out. Of 11 poets named, five are American, including Eliot (who left America for England) but not Auden (who left England for America) - even though many selectors excluded foreigners from their own lists. Take away the Irishman

Heaney (who recently excused himself from a "British" anthology) as well, and the British poets are outnumbered.

It is also a slightly negative reflection that three places are taken up by established masters - Eliot, Pound, Auden - whose reputations belong to an earlier era, even if many of their best poems do not. Only Heaney and Basil Bunting, of the poets selected, have made their names in the last 20 years, though Peter Porter (Australia) and *The Observer* James Fenton (Oxford and *The Sunday Times*), Craig Raine (founder of *Martianism*, a tiny modern movement which writes about life as if viewed from another planet) and Douglas Dunn (for *Terry Street*, 1969) all came close to making the chart.

The presence of Bunting, like that of Keith Douglas and the high showing of Sylvia Plath's *Ariel*, is a big surprise. He is a venerable Northumbrian - 84 this year - and a disciple of Pound, whose unreadable masterpiece *The Pisan Cantos* sneaks in two places beneath.

Bunting clearly benefits from the rules of the survey; it is for the autobiographical *Briggflatts* in particular, rather than for a whole life's work, that he is slowly and belatedly gaining recognition. You might call him a poet's poet: "There is no excuse for literary criticism" says this splendid old man.

Keith Douglas did not live to see his best poems printed in book form; he died in battle near El Alamein, aged 24. So many selectors wanted to bend the rules to accommodate his special case that the rules were duly bent.

Neil Astley, the young director of poetry publishers Bloodaxe, was one enthusiastic supporter: "Keith Douglas's *Complete Poems* is my choice as the best poetry book of our time." On such evidence, Douglas's reputation is set for a major advance.

One might have predicted a fifth or sixth place for Sylvia Plath; but her tie with Philip Larkin for the lead is a sign

of how general is the appalled respect for the jagged, powerful poems she wrote in the months before her suicide. Plath drew her support from academics and from pop performers alike.

But the survey is dominated by the three living poets in the top 10: Larkin, Hughes and Heaney, and in that order. Hughes (though no such chart recorded it then) held sway in the 1960s, when his crackling, sinewy poems of animal violence were an antidote to the gloomy, civilized urbanity that had characterized some poetry of the previous decade - including that of the younger Larkin. But fashions change, or judgment has matured.

With his very gloomiest and most grumpily right-wing collection, *High Windows*, Larkin has displaced Hughes as our premier influence. Rumour has it that it will also be his last book; though not yet retired from his job as a

librarian (at Hull University), he claims to have given up writing poems altogether, though he has published only four slim volumes in 40 years. Three poems a year, on average; not much.

Hughes, a craggy Yorkshireman, and Heaney, a twinkling Ulsterman now living in the Republic of Ireland, are still in prolific mid-career. Hughes published *River* last year, a book with terrible photographs of reeds and minnows, and Heaney has a new book out from Faber in October. Each of them had five titles nominated in the survey, and you would have guessed as much. Discussion may continue about the relative merits of each book, but the status of our three leading poets is almost a matter of common consent.

The author is co-editor of *Poetry Review*.

moreover...
Miles Kingston

England digs in for a victory

So Liverpool are through to the finals of the European Garden Cup!

Merseyside went wild today when they heard that they had been drawn to face Rome to dispute the title of European Champion Gardeners. In this city of bloom and blossom, there is not one citizen who is not a fanatical gardening fan and although fewer than 50,000 will make the trip to Rome for the final, the entire population of Liverpool will be in spirit inside the boiling cauldron they call the Roman Municipal Gardens.

"This is definitely the big one for us," says Liverpool head gardener Joe Parsley. "We've shown we're the prettiest in Britain. Now we've got to go out and show the Europeans that our British flowers can run rings round them. Of course, the Italians have had the advantage of early summer. I'm not denying that, but our burst of spring weather has done us a power of good and I think our bulbs could decide it on the day."

No gardens in Britain have more European experience than Liverpool, not even Tottenham Larkspurs. To get to the final Liverpool had to beat Trellis Dortmund, DDT Munich, Sporting Gazebo and the Spanish champions, Real Wisteria, so they are no strangers to the big occasion. But when they go out into the seething cooking pot they call the Roman Municipal Gardens, in front of 100,000 screaming Roman horticulturalists, they'll know they have a real scrap on their hands.

The strength of the Italians has always been in their tricky, twining profusion of patterns and their fertile summer fruits. What answer will Liverpool have to the olive oil boys?

"Never underestimate the strength of traditional British skills," says Parsley. "A good formation of yellow daffs, a spring display of tulips with a back-up formation of magnolias, is very hard to beat. Our display is gathered from all over Britain, you know, with star attractions from Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Rush from Wales, especially, may be a surprise to them; I don't think they know how to grow rushes in Italy."

The famous Kop in Liverpool, the hill where most of the action takes place, is normally a waving, swaying mass of colour this time of year but come Final day it will be empty, transplanted to that fermenting vat they call the Roman Municipal Gardens. One gardening fan, Terry Smith of Toxteth, is so fanatical that when he had to decide between going to Rome or taking a holiday he opted for both, and has decided to take his family with him to the great occasion.

"These gardening specials are a trip out of this world," he told us. "You get the odd fan who goes mad on primrose wine, but the bulk of us are solid, sensible supporters and a credit to the gardens. When we enter Rome, waving our red scarves and singing 'When the Scents go Marching In' we'll feel 10ft tall. I don't give them Romans a chance."

Joe Parsley doesn't underestimate the Romans, though. He admires their artistry and fears their will to win, sometimes at all costs.

"When things go against them, they can get very physical. I've seen them hacking and trampling all over the opposition's flower bed's cutting blooms down from behind and going in with the gumbot first. But we're ready for anything. And it will be a great day, whoever wins."

In that seething snake-pit they call the Roman Municipal Gardens? "Exactly."

The Venice Marathon

There are still many entry forms available from me for the Venice Marathon, the only amphibious long-distance race in the world. The streets and canals in Venice are so narrow that the runners would be unable to overtake, and would finish in the order in which they set out, were it not that the course passes through the interior of 10 of the largest churches in Venice, where there is ample passing room. Entrants should carry plenty of change, in case entry to the church is charged. For these and many other details, send an SAE to me, c/o Moreover Mobile Cappuccino Canteen, *The Times*.

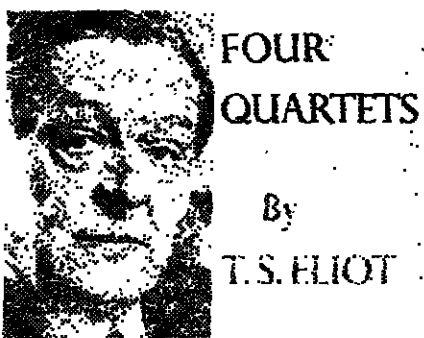
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3 T. S. ELIOT

Four Quartets 1964



Eliot's mature masterpiece. Its form, which owes much to musical structure, is complex and beautiful; its content is also concerned with formal matters of time and space.

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

4 PHILIP LARKIN

The Whitsun Weddings 1964

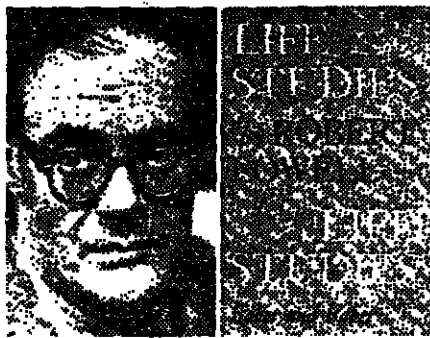


Though there is rich comedy, and even affirmation in some obscure lovely corners (like the well-known close of the title-poem), these precisely made poems are most memorable for their glorious pessimism:

Life is first boredom, then fear.
Whether or not we use it, it goes.
And leaves what something hidden
from us chose.
And age, and then the only end of age.

5 ROBERT LOWELL

Life Studies 1959

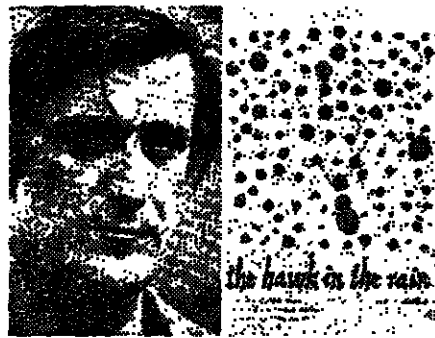


A founding text of the Confessional Movement. In courageous autobiographical poems, the Bostonian Lowell abandons his earlier tight metrics for a verse that is loose, prosaic, sardonic, harrowing:

A car radio bleats,
'Love, O careless Love...' I hear
My ill-spirit sob in each blood cell
As if my hand were at its throat...
I myself am hell,
nobody's here.

6 TED HUGHES

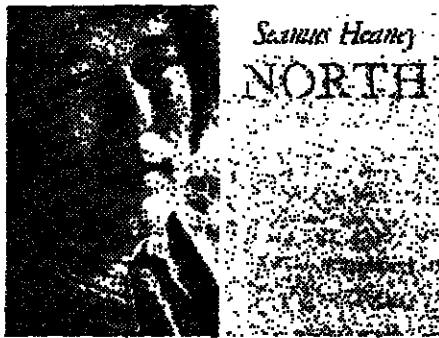
The Hawk in the Rain 1957



The volume that had an almost physical impact on the overworked 1950s. Though parts are overwritten, its best poems, like *The Thought-Fox*, control their explosions: Till, with a sudden sharp hot stink of fox
It enters the dark hole of the head.
The window is starless still; the clock ticks.
The page is printed.

7 SEAMUS HEANEY

North 1975



Heaney is our earliest poet. The core of this collection is a sequence of poems about the preserved bodies of Danish 'bog people': *Bog Queen*, for example, an eerie map of decomposition:
My sash was a black glacier
wrinkling, dyed weaves
and phoenician stitchwork
retted on my breasts'
soft moraines.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 331)

- ACROSS
- 1 Ski zigzag (6)
 - 4 Gently stroke (6)
 - 7 Ceremony (4)
 - 8 Octopus leg (8)
 - 13 Distress call (1,1,1,1)
 - 16 Hereford/Worcester valley (4,2,7)
 - 17 Jackdaw (3)
 - 19 Easy money source (5,3)
 - 24 Calvary (8)
 - 25 From quoted book (4)
 - 26 Fixed watcher (6)
 - 27 Game participant (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Aching (4)
 - 2 Lingering light (9)
 - 3 Flow measure (5)
 - 4 Church decree (5)
 - 5 Route (4)
 - 6 Broadside (5)
 - 10 Horse attendant (5)
 - 11 Of expanse (5)
 - 12 Dentures (5)
 - 13 Pupil (9)
 - 14 Japanese wrestling (4)
 - 15 Roman love poet (4)
 - 18 Call off (5)
 - 20 Bury (5)
 - 21 Grip lightly (5)
 - 22 Seaweed carbohydrate (4)
 - 23 Polish border river (4)

SOLUTION TO No 330

ACROSS: 1 Kung fu 4 Buff 8 Evict 9 Prolong 11 Reserved 13 Mill 15 Bank of England 17 lamb 18 Hedgehog 21 Tanager 22 Keme 23 Meek 24 Buffet
DOWN: 1 Units 3 GNT 4 Unprecedented 5 Book 6 Florida 7 Jerrybuilt 10 Gold digger 12 Riot 14 Agos 16 Nominee 19 Horse 20 Leak 22 Kif

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11 BASIL BUNTING

Briggflatts 1966



An autobiographical poem but densely allusive. Its musical structure (he calls it a 'sonata') and attractive lyrical surface offset its broad range of reference:

Brag, sweet tenor bull,
descant on Rawthay's madrigal,
each pebble its part
for the fell's late spring.
dance tiptoe, bull,
black against May.
Ridiculous and lovely
chase hurdling shadows
morning into noon.

12 KEITH DOUGLAS

Complete Poems 1979

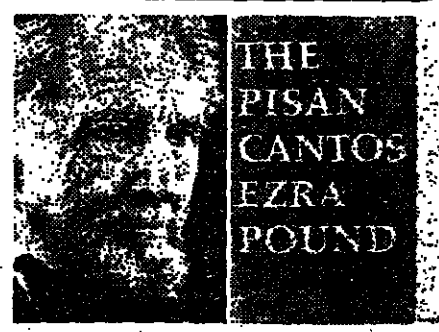


A collection which charts the chastening of a young poet's literariness by the horrible particularity of war in the desert:

the metal brambles have no flowers or berries
and there are all sorts of manure,
you can imagine
the dead themselves, their boots,
clothes and possessions
clinging to the ground,
a man with no head
has a packet of chocolate and a souvenir or Tripoli.

13 EZRA POUND

The Pisan Cantos 1949



The most acclaimed section of the long sequence of *Cantos*. Notoriously difficult. The opening of one gives a taste of its extreme allusiveness and quirky movement:
The enormous tragedy of the dream in the peasant's bent shoulders
Manes! Manes was tanned and stuffed,
Thus Ben and la Clara a Milano
by the heels at Milano
That maggots shd/ eat the dead
bullock... DIAGONOS...

May 2 1984

WEDNESDAY PAGE

TALKBACK

Interfering with nature

From Polly Phillimore, Flat 3, 38 Tregunter Road, London SW10
I have read your report on surrogate mothers (Wednesday Page, April 25) with horror and dismay.

I believe that the waiting list for adoption is long for white children but that there are plenty of non-Caucasian children in need of adoption. If a child is so desperately wanted but a woman is infertile any child requiring a home should fulfil this need.

Test-tube babies are the product of the sperm and ova of a man and a woman who wish to bring up their child together. This justification for interfering with nature cannot be upheld in the use of a surrogate mother.

The unacceptability of this method is clear on any grounds. Couples who consider themselves as upright, moral and Christian members of society seem able to condone offering money to a woman to conceive and bear a child solely to bring happiness and satisfaction to their own lives. We ought to note with care the mother's admission to missing the child and wondering how she is developing, she dismissed this as "just motherhood curiosity". Exactly. She will always be wondering about that child - long after the money has gone.

Meat-eating and arthritis cures

From Fabienne Smith, 55 Manor Place, Edinburgh EH3 7EG.

There is no general connection between dropping meat-eating and losing arthritis (Talkback April 11); it is a question of an individual's allergic foods causing that particular symptom in a given case. Mr Gatling could test by reintroducing foods singly to see which give reactions and which are safe.

I once cured a bad arthritis as dramatically as Mr Gatling cured himself, by advising her to cut out meats. All pain and stiffness went after ten years of being drugged to the eyeballs by orthodox doctors, as she put it to me, and often still crying with pain. But any allergen can produce any allergy symptom. Your Talkback correspondent Mrs Payne (Jan 13), also cured bad arthritis, but not by cutting out all meats - her allergens happened to have a different pattern.

The Times Cook will appear next Wednesday.

Richard Ford reports on marriages that cause suspicion and fear in Northern Ireland

By the church divided



Patrick McGurk's last view of his girlfriend was as she lay in her coffin. She had committed suicide after being harassed and tormented because she was going out with a Roman Catholic.

Protestant youths in a small Northern Ireland farming town had insulted Yvonne Hunter, a 22-year-old Presbyterian factory worker, only hours before she took a fatal overdose of drugs. She had also been under pressure from friends to end her seven-month relationship with Patrick, a 23-year-old Catholic.

After testifying at last month's inquest into her death, Patrick went home to his parents in Moneymore, Co. Londonderry and sobbed all night. He had told the coroner that although he had never been harassed, his car had been followed on occasions. The message from his tormentors is now clear - give up the girl.

Patrick met Yvonne in one of the only bars in the town where Protestant and Roman Catholic youngsters mix freely, and the relationship quickly became common knowledge in the small town.

But although both families had welcomed Patrick and Yvonne into their homes, pressures in Northern Ireland, especially among the working classes, would have made it very difficult for the relationship to flourish. Mixed marriages are a major cause of tension in the community, causing deep suspicion and fears that they are a ploy to undermine each other's faith.

Perhaps Patrick's mother highlights those barriers. In attending Yvonne's funeral, it was the first time she'd ever set foot in a Presbyterian church and even then her presence was conspicuous as most of the Protestant women, according to custom, did not attend.

Although Mrs McGurk would like her five children to marry "their own religion", she did not stop Patrick's relationship with Yvonne, but admits that if they had married they would probably have had to set up home away from the town. "If they'd stayed it might have got much worse than just name-calling. There might have been physical attacks."

But not all parents are as understanding as Mrs McGurk. Trish Blackburn still remembers her mother's horror on hearing that she intended to marry her long-standing Protestant boyfriend Terry. Slicing onions in the kitchen, her staunchly Roman Catholic mother dropped the knife, almost cutting her foot, shouted, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph", and burst into tears.

In spite of this opposition, Trish married Terry. It is easier for middle-class couples like them, particularly those who have left the family home. But for others, the pressures from parents, and more so from grandparents, aunts and uncles, are enormous.

One such case is Gerard (not his real name) who had been brought up by his working-class parents in Bude. Until he was 19 and working, he had never knowingly met a Protestant, let alone considered going out with a Protestant girl.

He had always thought of Protestants as "Bible thumpers standing on soap boxes", and for

several years still did not feel safe to make close friends with them. Because of the hard-line Republican housing estate on which he lived, he knew of the hostility that had arisen in the past when Protestants had gone to neighbouring houses. "I just did not feel safe with having Protestant friends - you don't shed 19 years overnight."

He met Ruth, a Protestant, from a town several miles away at work, where there was banter between "Tais and Prods", and a year later they began going out, knowing they were courting disapproval from both sets of parents. They were, and remain, strong disciples of their respective faiths and knew of the

problems ahead. One of Ruth's brothers was in the security forces, and her father would never attend a marriage held in a Roman Catholic church. Gerard's father had ominously warned: "I have nothing against Protestants but marrying one is going too far."

So when the couple announced their intention to marry, the reaction was as expected. Gerard's parents refused to meet Ruth, forbade her from entering their home and whenever he left to meet her, they made insulting comments. Two years later their hostility is unrelenting. They have never met nor seen each other. An invitation to the wedding went unanswered and none

of his family was at the service in a Protestant church.

"They were insulted to be invited in the first place and though I see them every week they have never come to our house."

Initially Ruth's family was as unhappy, but after six months Gerard met her father and he is now accepted as their son-in-law. They live near each other. He plays snooker and pool with her brothers and on one memorable occasion her brothers argued with some youths who had jibed about their sister.

Both churches also added to the couple's problems. Gerard, who had given a written promise to educate any children in the Catholic faith, was refused dispensation to marry in a Protestant church. He has never been given any reason, despite requests to his bishop. The Kirk Session of Ruth's Presbyterian church turned down their request to marry, hinting that there might be protests about the match, as there had already been gossip. Eventually they married in another Protestant church where Ruth now regularly attends while her husband goes to Mass each week.

Their experiences have made them question their respective religions for the first time and their children will be educated in the state system. They will be allowed to decide their religion themselves.

"It has strengthened the bond between us, but we still are very angry at the obstacles put in our way by the churches, particularly as we were both believers rather than token members", says Gerard, who is still attempting to persuade his church to recognize the marriage so that he can take sacraments.

They have been fortunate in being able to buy their own home in a town not noted for sectarian strife and they deny there are any arguments because of their different cultural and religious backgrounds, though they have always agreed to forget certain things like politics and the position of the Virgin Mary in the Roman Catholic faith.

The suspicion, although many couples deny it, is that major differences are deliberately submerged to prevent family disagreements. And whatever the initial hostility of respective families, most discover that over the years it evaporates, particularly if grandchildren are born.

As one Roman Catholic married to a Protestant put it: "My mammy thinks he's wonderful. She keeps saying I'm so lucky and that he even does the dishes once a week as well as making me go to Mass."

'Traitors to their faith'

The hostility to mixed marriages in Northern Ireland is merely a manifestation of the attitude to religion in the Province. Those who marry "against their faith" are seen as traitors to it.

As James Boyd, former professor of practical theology at the Presbyterian Theological College, said: "There is a triumphalism in Irish religion. To turn your coat is a terrible thing as it is seen as disloyalty and betrayal. Even a person converting to become a Protestant will remain in many people's eyes a Roman Catholic at heart and vice versa. In a province where the extended family network of relations is still a dominant feature of life, the cultural pressures on young couples contemplating a mixed marriage are enormous."

It is certainly easier for middle-class couples like Trish and Terry Blackburn. They live in East Belfast where anonymity can be a welcome shield against the jibes. Many couples must move to towns miles from their homes to find this anonymity - and peace. Others simply face enormous hurdles before reaching the altar.

The churches, on both sides, do little to help. Before Gerard and Ruth married, they came up against the panoply of the churches and it is this that most couples in mixed marriages remember with bitterness and contempt. The unevenness of the application of the Roman Catholic Church's response to requests for dispensation to marry a Protestant arouses most hostility, particularly if priests put pressure on the Protestant partner to convert. Even articulate middle-class couples have difficulties, though frequently priests retreat in the face of strong argument or the threat of a Register Office wedding.

Protestant partners no longer have to give any promise about the upbringing of any children but the Roman Catholic makes one orally and sometimes in writing.

Even though many Protestants see the Roman Catholic Church's insistence on the promise a form of "genocide" for their faith, they are frequently as hard-line, with the Presbyterian church discouraging their members "for their own sakes" from entering a mixed marriage and some ministers refuse to marry a couple for fear of antagonizing their congregation. Such attitudes on both sides often result in couples drifting away from the church, altogether while others seek to marry outside the country.

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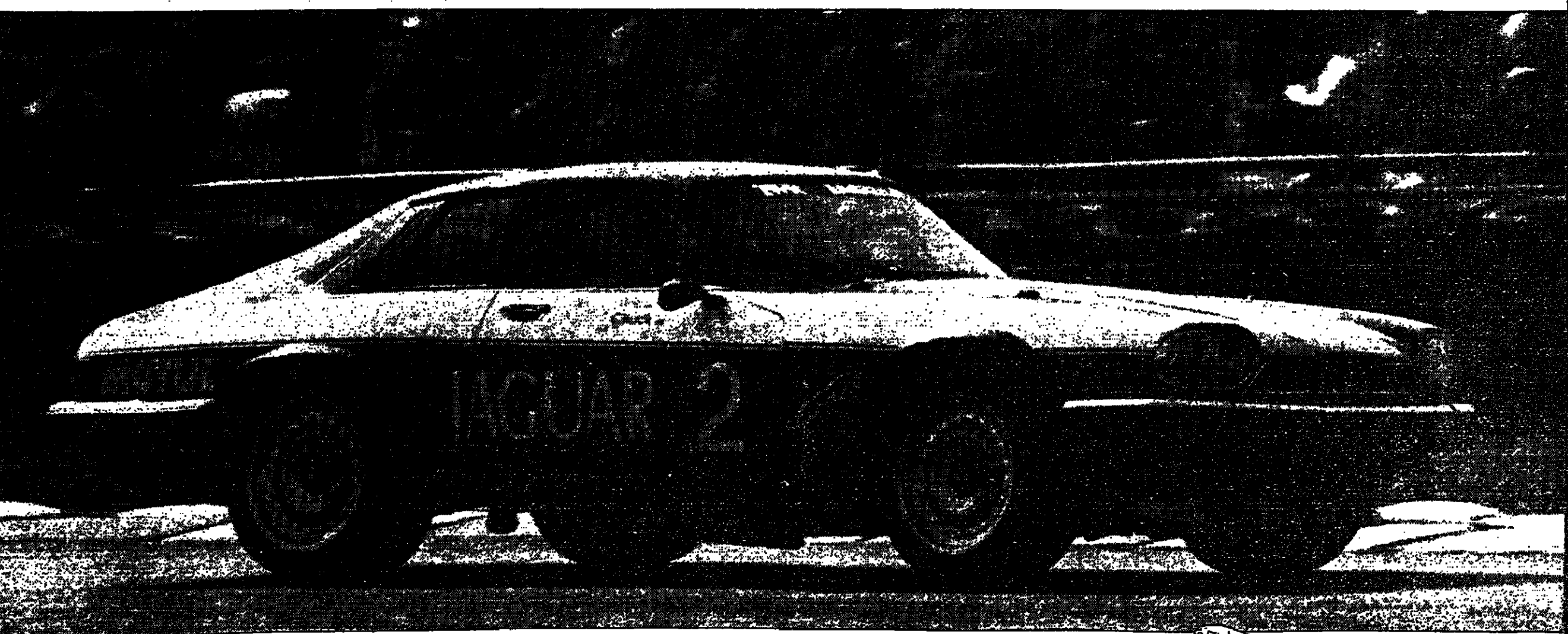
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Nurburg, Germany	8th July
Spa, Belgium	28th & 29th July
Silverstone (TT), UK	9th September
Zolder, Hasselt, Belgium	23rd September
Mugello, Florence, Italy	21st October



* Subject to official confirmation.

JAGUAR The legend grows

THE TIMES DIARY

Scargill's ace

The coal strike gets more confusing by the day. Publicizing their cause in the May Day issue of the *Morning Star* yesterday, the Yorkshire NUM endorsed a statement which Mrs Thatcher made during the Falklands crisis: "You have to be prepared to defend those things in which you believe, and be prepared to use force, if that is the only way to secure the future of liberty and self-determination." Perhaps Mrs Thatcher could now unearth an old Scargill pearl to support her stand against the miners.

Strats off

So much for the traditions of English public schools - Winchester has just abolished straw boats. John Thorn, the headmaster, says that at £16 a throw, the "strat" was an unnecessary expense for parents - who pay £5,000 a year in fees. Apart from a "blitz" when the Queen came, the strats were becoming so tatty that, I am told, boys looked like versions of Worzel Gummidge. Old boys are not amused. Some tell me that Thorn, who retires as head after 17 years next year, has taken the decision for fear that his successor, yet to be appointed, would ban the boats to demonstrate the power of his new broom. "Some subtleties are beyond me," said Thorn.

Chelsea pad

The Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, was urged by Lord Chalfont yesterday to police the Libyan People's School in Gible Place, Chelsea, for fear it will be used as a refuge or training for Libyans. The school, now bereft of 45 diplomats' children following the exodus last week, has a flat roof - ideal for a helicopter landing pad - and a fortress-style steel-framed structure.

Enforced policing, however, could well have dangerous consequences, when I visited the school yesterday, a car filled with police officers was parked outside and another posse was in the playground. The headmaster, Ibrahim Talour, was incensed, and told them that any attempt to search the building - adorned with Gaddafi posters - would be resisted. One officer somewhat desperately asked if he could use the school lavatories. "Clear off," said Talour.

Museum piece

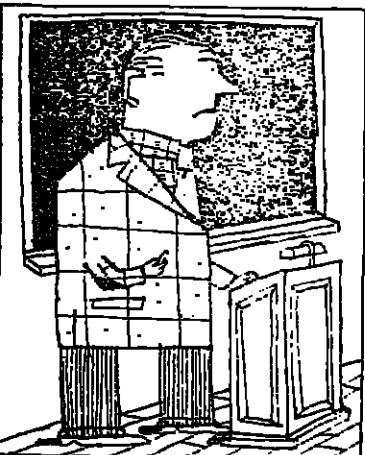
THE BRITISH EMBASSY
TRIPOLI
TELEPHONE 5101

Only one party is happy about the 200 sheets of hand-engraved writing paper which have just been printed: Lonsdale Engraving of London. To save his embarrassment, the company refuse to name the diplomat who settled the £60 bill from Tripoli two weeks ago.

Filed away

One question the Government will have to answer over the Libyan affair is whether it was aware that the US State Department kept a file on Abdul Ghadir Khalifa Bagdadi, the leader of the revolutionary committee which took over the People's Bureau in February. Bagdadi studied sociology at Michigan State University from 1978-80, but did not complete the course. One reference in the US file describes him as a "disreputable sort of fellow". A fellow student at Michigan State was Musa Kusa, the former secretary of the bureau who was thrown out of Britain in 1980 for saying that more anti-Gaddafi Libyans in Britain would be killed.

BARRY FANTONI



"If it takes one minister three days to earn £265, how long does it take a teacher to get an extra seven and a half per cent?"

Off the shelf

For people who make careers out of storing books and documents with military precision, the Library Association has just made an appalling gaffe. It cannot find its own Royce Charter, bestowed and signed by Queen Victoria in 1877. I am told it probably disappeared "on the road" while on exhibition.

Hair blackshirts

Some mothers do have 'em. First Lady Mosley virtually ostracizes her stepson Nicholas for his caustic biography of Sir Oswald. Now her son by her first marriage, Jonathan Guinness, is tempting her further wrath by publishing in October the first biography of all seven Milfords. It will be called *Stricks and Floats* - of outrage and tears?

PHS

Why Len Murray decided to quit: by Paul Routledge



Milestones in the career of the Shropshire lad. 1960, as the ambitious head of the TUC's economic and research department. 1976, with wife Heather after recovering from a heart attack. "I shall be reassessing my work load," he said at the time. "This has taught me that I am not a superman." February 1984, speaking in support of the GCHQ workers, a dispute that soured his relations with the government and is thought to have been at least a contributory factor behind his decision to retire three years early



Lonely fate of the rejected realist

Workers' Union - and the rift has never really healed. No general secretary has been so obliged to use the right to vote as he has on key committees of the general council (and within the general council itself). That personal exercise of voting power cannot simply be explained away by the fact that the influence of the trade union movement has waned so much during his term of office.

Mr Murray may have risen to the top by the natural operation of Buggins's law, which makes the long-serving deputy the next man for the job, but he very much wanted to be his own man. In one of his first interviews he said: "I can fight for my own views in the formulation of policy. I am not merely a delegate in the sense that I just repeat what I am told to. Having heard the views of the other side, I have to interpret them and make judgments."

Those views were expressed just a few months before his first big crisis as general secretary - the 1974 miners' strike which precipitated the downfall of Mr Edward Heath's Conservative government. Not long after it began, he came out into a cold February night in Downing Street, incredulous that Mr Heath and his ministers would not take his word that, if the miners were allowed to drive a coach and horses through the statutory incomes policy, others would not seek to follow.

His abasement at the hands of the Heath cabinet must have been assuaged over the next five years, however, when the TUC enjoyed unprecedented access to ministers and influence over the Wilson/Callaghan administration that took office during the pit strike. It was a honeymoon period between the unions and their chosen government, and the ill-fated 1971 Industrial Relations Act was scrapped forthwith.

It must have seemed like the millennium, but it did not last. Within days of being gazetted as a privacy councillor in May 1976,

Murray suffered a heart attack after being barracked by hard-left delegates at a conference of construction workers in Scarborough.

He was there to defend the "social contract", the high point of union-government collaboration which yielded a £6 a week pay rise for every worker in the land - more than most unions had ever negotiated in direct talks with their employers.

From that time on it was a hard struggle within the union movement to maintain its loyalty to the Labour government, but it was a battle that, by and large, was fought successfully. Murray was an articulate and clever spokesman in defence of the social contract, which broke down only when the unions finally felt betrayed by Mr Callaghan when he postponed the general election that they all expected in the autumn of 1978.

Callaghan's celebrated "Waiting at the Church" speech to the Brighton TUC congress that year prompted most union leaders to believe that a general election was in the offing, and the collapse of those expectations led directly to the so-called "winter of discontent" over wages and Labour's failure at the polls in May 1979.

There followed one of the bleakest periods in the TUC's history. Murray was definitely not welcome in Downing Street, and the unions were increasingly shut out of direct contacts with ministers. There was a strong reaction in the unions and pressure grew for the TUC to break off top-level contacts with the Cabinet through the NEDC. Murray fought this isolationist tendency, even threatening to resign if the TUC ended its role as a social partner with government.

He succeeded in sustaining the unions' direct participation in talks with ministers, but the ground was cut from under his feet by the events at GCHQ and the new Trade Union Bill, which goes further than any previous legislation in requiring the unions to conform to Conservative models of how they should behave.

The centre-right coalition on the TUC general council which was supposed to enjoy a two-to-one majority collapsed under these hammer blows, undermining the Murray stance at the same time.

Murray's aides - and there are none more loyal - were last night insisting that there are no deep political reasons for his early retirement. But he has not been absent from work through illness of late, despite his heart attack eight years ago, and if he is sick he may just be sick of the internal wrangling within the TUC.

At the Scottish TUC conference two weeks ago, the resolution seeking to reassert trade union defiance of the Government's labour laws was blunt enough, but the speeches were unrelentingly hostile to the Murray line of no all-out conflict with the Government. That pressure was to have been kept up all through the summer months by leaders of the NGA, who have not forgotten or forgiven the general council's "betrayal" of their stand against the law.

By this source - a long-standing member of the general council - he was not judged a success in his punishing job. He came to office when the general council was dominated by two key figures - Jack Jones of the transport workers and Hugh Scanlon of the engineers.

When they retired, to be replaced by the less inspiring Moss Evans and Terry Duffy respectively, there was a vacuum of power that Murray himself eventually filled, but not effectively. The "new realism" of the last congress, which produced a general council that should have been receptive to Murray's policies and style, in fact proved to be more elusive than expected.

In the private committees, where the general secretary can usually count on getting his own way, Murray suffered two serious setbacks in recent months. In the economic committee his insistence on continued participation in the NEDC failed when the traditionally moderate General and Bollemaekers' Union sided with the left, and in the employment policy and organization committee a paper from his staff on the Trade Union Bill was judged to be too timid and was sent back to be hardened up.

To most people, these may appear mere pinpricks, but in the context of the TUC they were perhaps the beginning of the end. Murray's departure has been a well-kept secret for nearly a week, but his fellow leaders have not spent the time trying to persuade him to stay.

principle, is an important clue to the NCCL's attitude to its responsibilities. We shall continue to need some kind of body to defend our civil liberties until the Home Office is re-zoned to the ground, the ruins of which will be the island of the shipwrecked to Devil's Island with no hope to return. But there are constant private as well as government threats to civil liberties, and the greatest of these for some years now has been the conduct of some trade unions in practising coercion and intimidation against their members and others. Among the range of union practices which deny civil liberties, the worst are the institutions of the closed shop and the methods used to enforce it. And what has been the response of the NCCL? To look the other way.

It was the Freedom Association, not the NCCL, which helped the six employees of British Rail to fight and win their case, at the European Court, against being dismissed for not belonging to a union.

The case offered, as perhaps its most grotesque and repulsive aspect, the spectacle of a minister in a Conservative government - the Solicitor-General - arguing the case for their dismissal. The NCCL, by its conduct in this area, has consistently made clear that it does not regard the closed shop or the wretched tyrannies it has spawned as any kind of diminution of civil liberties; it is chiefly that fact that led me, in my first words today, to suggest that has acted more as a body concerned with left-wing causes rather than civil liberties.

But not entirely. The council has taken up some cases of right-wing, even extreme right-wing, victims of the denial of liberty; it has not hidden its efforts to impose a political means test; and I for one have been willing to give it, and Mr Gostin, the benefit of a fairly massive range of doubts.

No longer. A body which claims to defend civil liberties but announces that "civil liberties" is now a means test, and I for one have been willing to give it, and Mr Gostin, the benefit of a fairly massive range of doubts. This is a matter of principle, but there is a matter of practice which, even if it has no connexion with the

Robin Cook

Save your local think tank

Tomorrow, citizens of large tracts of Britain go to the polls to elect councillors to safeguard their local interests. With a timing which reveals a neat contempt for local government, the Prime Minister chose last weekend to repeat her satisfaction at having challenged what she termed "the vested interest" of local authorities.

It is possible to cavil at the use of the phrase "vested interest" to describe bodies which are elected by universal suffrage on a franchise open to every adult citizen within their border. There is no denying the vigour with which Mrs Thatcher's two administrations have set about curbing their freedom and subjecting them to central imperatives. Not a parliamentary year has passed without fresh bills to provide for rate-capping or knee-capping of local authorities until they are now thoroughly hobbled by the purse strings.

Notoriously, the metropolitan councils face the ultimate sanction of becoming divested interests, and legislation is in train to relieve their residents of the troublesome business of going to the polling stations. The more widespread danger is that the surviving local councils will be so hedged in by central directives and sapped of financial resources that they will represent only the trappings of local democracy - sort of elective gauleiters, chosen locally, but controlled centrally. It is a measure of the success of the New Right in concentrating power in central authority that should be necessary to restate the case for local democracy.

To begin with the argument that might be thought to cut most ice with modern Toryism, local authorities are worth preserving on grounds of efficiency. There is simply no more effective way of tailoring public services to local needs than leaving the decision on detail to local people. Any unreconstructed centralists who harboured the delusion that greater efficiency might be attained by direct rule from Whitehall must have had their faith sorely tried by the repeated failure of the Department of Environment to hit on a means of reflecting the full spectrum of local needs and conditions in the disbursement of grants - let alone, administration of how the money is best spent.

There is a second consideration which should weigh with more traditional Conservatives. Local authorities are a vital ingredient in the pluralism without which democracy will fail. They are the only body other than Parliament elected by universal franchise and therefore provide an essential check and balance within the distribution of power. Even the inconvenient habit of the electorate of voting into local office whichever party is in parliamentary opposition fulfils a healthy role in redistributing power and serving notice on government. Remove, or undermine local authorities, and British democracy turns solely on the elected dictatorship of the Commons majority.

Which brings us to the third reason why local authorities should be cherished. Local democracy is worth defending precisely because it is democratic. It is an important

point of principle that local communities should be free to settle for themselves the quality of local services, and to determine locally the extent to which rates should be increased to improve on them. That principle is negated when Whitehall obliges local electorates to submit to homogenized levels of service, and Westminster legislates for a standard arid amount of rates increase.

In some respects local authorities are more democratic than Parliament. Having served in both, I can testify that the committee system of local government enables the individual councillor to participate in decision making, while the ritual clash of whipped parties on the floor of the Commons is preserved by the business managers precisely because it excludes backbench members from decision making, which is confined to the Treasury bench.



Patrick Jenkin: his plans to control the councils will mean not only the death of local democracy but will stifle the social innovation that has been of benefit nationally

Such considerations illustrate why local authorities should be preserved, but it would be a major mistake to allow Whitehall's assault on local authorities to set the agenda of debate so that the case for local democracy is presented in only defensive terms.

Local democracy should be fostered and promoted because it is a creative force with the potential to discover novel solutions to social problems and to pioneer fresh means of meeting community needs. If we take an historical sweep of our public services, we will find that from municipal transport to comprehensive education the original concept and the first experiments were nurtured at local level and it was the demonstration of local success that led to national application. The real cost of the multiple shackles of the past five years is that in bringing local authorities under central control, they may have crushed the flowering of innovation at local level.

If this centripetal trend is to be arrested, all those concerned by it must turn out to be counted tomorrow among those who value and use their local democracy. The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

David Hart

Kinnock? Ah yes, I remember him

Mrs Thatcher's government, whatever its failings, is not seen as weak. Where there is strong government, in a free country, there will be strong opposition. It is almost a law of social equilibrium. If this opposition is not articulated in Parliament, it will try to find other channels for its expression.

The honeymoon is over for Mr Kinnock, and the opinion polls begin to reflect it. He has been unable to conceal the bankruptcy of his economic argument in the face of a recovery that is now plain. Council house sales have been popular with his constituents, as is denationalization. He has failed to capture the high ground of moral principle.

The failure of the official Opposition has provided the opportunity for a much nastier unofficial opposition to gather momentum. The first clear signs are emerging among the miners. When he addressed the NUM faithful in Sheffield on April 19, Arthur Scargill did not simply change his union's rules. He confirmed his role as leader of a new, extra-parliamentary political force.

Walking among the crowd of militant young miners that day, I did not hear one good word for the Labour Party. Instead, their hopeful faces were turned up to a scaffolding platform, behind the City Hall, from which hard-left political rhetoric was offered with a seasoning of free beer, presumably financed by the union, and occasional songs.

We were all waiting for Scargill. The morning wore on. A toothless warrior, covered in badges, stood to attention to sing a Scottish love song. More effective than any number of police officers, he brought several thousand miners to a complete stop. Other speakers made extravagant and florid personal attacks Mrs Thatcher and on the police. They were all received with cheers.

Martin Flannery, a Sheffield Labour MP, told us that the police had broken the "law of the land" and that the miners should decide what they were going to do about it. Another speaker urged the crowd to "get stuck into the police". Individuals in the crowd engaged police officers with insults and Marxist rhetoric. To add insult to injury - more than 100 police officers have been hurt in this dispute so far - the local left-wing

police committee looked on from a flat above the square to monitor police activity.

As the morning wore on, inescapable thoughts of Nuremberg arose. The affair was better "timoured" but not so efficiently organized. Yet there was in the air the unmistakable stench of fascism.

Scargill's address, when he emerged, was stilted, technical, without inspiration. He read a prepared statement. None the less, all present roared their applause at every pause, and raised their clenched fists, again and again, in aggressive salute. In Scargill these frustrated, directionless young militants, with help from skilled agitators, have found a messiah who promises to lead them out of the dark valleys of decaying pits, declining industries, and feelings of personal hopelessness, into a promised land which is still to be defined positively but which will certainly not include such "luxuries" as social democracy and real freedom, although the words would be much used to describe tyranny, and slavery.

Scargill and his lieutenants have seized these men and welded them into a new crusade against a new class of infidel, the Thatcherites.

Though Scargill has a declared aim within the industry - the withdrawal of the decision to close uneconomic pits - his consistent and open submerging of this objective when addressing his troops, enables him to prolong the struggle whatever happens in the industry. Even if the Coal Board accedes to all his demands he would soon find another excuse for more militant action against "Thatcher's Bonapartist dictatorship". Another Grunwick would present itself.

Such extraparlimentary opposition cannot be defeated in the body politic by high coal stocks: as the power stations or by the police upholding the law. These men will have to be defeated in the soul, too. The sensible majority of ordinary Britons, including miners, must be inspired to persuade the new opposition that it is unwelcome.

If Mr Kinnock would express himself clearly on this issue he would regain support as well as honour. The official Opposition would become, once more, the real opposition.

John Collins



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE CHINA CARD

President Reagan has had a rather bumpy ride in China but that was to be expected. There are too many unresolved issues between the two countries for the visit to have been a smooth celebration of amity. This will not necessarily damage the President amongst his own voters. Some may see the censoring of his remarks by Chinese television as a rebuff; others may applaud him for not trimming his remarks to take account of Chinese sensibilities. At any rate, some such calculation must have been behind his decision to talk about religion and free enterprise in an officially atheist, communist state. His image at home, after all, is that of a sincere, straight-speaking man who has no great need for the subtleties of traditional diplomacy. He gave it to the Chinese straight, and if they did not like it that was their problem. Reports that he nodded off during a ceremony may stimulate more comment than other weightier matters.

However, some of those more concrete issues are not so easily disposed of. Taiwan is the most obvious. The Chinese made it clear that the Americans should "not interfere" in the reunification of Taiwan with China. President Reagan, this time uncensored, insisted that while he would encourage a peaceful solution "we don't believe it would be right to cast aside longtime old friends in order to make new friends". Chinese

complaints about continuing—though diminishing—deliveries of American arms to Taiwan were rebuffed. To expect anything better than a state of manageable disagreement on this issue would be unrealistic.

The Chinese reaction to President Reagan's remarks on the Soviet Union should also have been no cause for surprise. The Chinese are cautiously mending fences with the Soviet Union, not with any hope of a warm relationship but in order to avoid unnecessary tension and maintain the balance of their foreign policy. They will shortly be receiving a high-level visitor from Moscow. It was therefore easily predictable that they would not wish to provide a platform for American attacks on the Soviet Union. Perhaps they were even a little surprised by the attacks in view of the relatively friendly communication which Mr Reagan sent recently to Mr Chernomir. In any case, not to have censored Mr Reagan's more hostile remarks on Chinese soil would have looked like an endorsement of them, especially to the Russians, who have been reacting nervously to the visit.

Chinese policy towards the Soviet Union is fundamentally consistent, even if tactics vary. Its main aim is to maintain an antagonistic balance between the super powers until they exhaust or destroy themselves or anyway cease to pose a threat to China. In the early 1970s China did

everything it could to prevent the blooming of détente between them. It lambasted Soviet "hegemonism" at every opportunity and responded eagerly to American overtures, giving every impression of being interested in a common front against Moscow. Now that relations between Moscow and Washington are, from the Chinese point of view, satisfactorily low again, China can resume a more balanced position. The message for Mr Reagan has clearly been that China is a proud, independent nation that will seek correct and profitable relations with the super powers but will not be drawn by either into alliance against the other.

This still leaves considerable scope for fruitful relations between Washington and Peking. Although there are differences over the Middle East and Central America, there is a common interest in preventing Soviet expansion in Asia, and the growth of Soviet power in general. There is also considerable scope for trade as China pushes forward into modernization. In spite of its more pragmatic attitude, China today is still a communist state with many unresolved political and economic problems. It will not greet Western influence with open arms. Yet the opportunities are there, both political and economic, for the West to strengthen a relationship that is bound to remain central to global security.

Mr Powell based his attack on the sentence, "I believe we owe it to future generations not to close pits before they are properly worked out". By a very curious argument, which it is not necessary to repeat, he claimed that the word "properly" could be interpreted as meaning "no longer capable of yielding coal that can be disposed of for not less than its cost to mine".

He then accused me of not admitting openly that this is what I meant and made this the basis of a charge of moral and religious bankruptcy. Mr Powell once had a reputation for clear and rigorous logic, but I must confess that the logic of this particular argument escapes me.

The word "properly", in the sentence which he subjected to such tortuous analysis, takes its colour from the previous paragraph about successful pit closures. The simple and only point I have been concerned to make is that there is a civilised way of dealing with pit closures in which all the factors, human, economic and long-term, are balanced against one another and used as a basis for negotiated agreements.

It would be better for all concerned if those in the public eye tried to recapture this vision instead of indulging in foolish polemics.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe,
York
April 30.

Archbishop and miners' strike

From the Archbishop of York
Sir, Forgive me for returning to a small matter which has already received far more publicity than it deserves. However, Mr Enoch Powell has for reasons best known to himself chosen to launch an extraordinary attack on my personal integrity, concerning a private letter I wrote some weeks ago to a miners' leader in my former diocese. And you yourself, Sir, have compounded the error in a leading article (April 28) and by a headline in which you describe me as supporting the miners' strike. May I therefore set the record straight?

My original letter was written in reply to a request for support and began by pointing out that in the Durham coalfield pit closures have been carried out on a massive scale, and with very little friction, for many years. I then drew attention to two main issues in the present dispute, the question of jobs and the question of long-term energy resources, and pointed out the need for caution.

It seemed to me at the time that the dispute was in danger of moving into areas about which rational discussion was impossible and my sole purpose in writing was to remind my correspondents of the basis on which Durham's excellent record of negotiation might be continued. I did not see myself as either supporting the strike or condemning it. That is not what I felt that my letter erred on the side of being platitudinous.

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Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe,
York
April 30.

From Mr Dennis White
Sir, Professor Thurstan Shaw (April 21) in his excellent letter on other people's cultural property writes, inter alia, "How should we feel if Argentina held Magna Carta...?" I suggest that we should feel as the Scots feel about us having the Stone of Destiny.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WHITE,
8 Nelson Street,
Dundee,
April 21.

From Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Troup
Sir, Mr H. J. Appleton (April 23) has put our position as members of boards of visitors clearly and succinctly. However, I believe there is too little public knowledge about the plight of those held on remand.

If it was known, for instance, that some youths are held for six months or more in this state they would, I suggest, be appalled and that is why, in my view, Mr Morgan's article of April 7 is so important and why we, as members of boards, must continue to press for improvement.

The knock-on effect of time on remand for those sentenced to youth custody makes a nonsense for the many caring and hardworking prison staff who try so hard to correct and rehabilitate young offenders, but now have little time to do other than lock them up. It is quite common to receive youths with 12-month sentences with only four months to serve because of the time they have been kept on remand.

Surely we are long overdue in adopting the Scottish system, which requires all offenders to be brought to trial within 110 days?

Yours faithfully,
TONY TROUP,
Bridge Gardens,
Hungerford,
Berkshire,
April 23.

From the Reverend Richard Willcock
Sir, The report of Prebendary Arthur Royall on ecclesiastical appointments (report, April 19) confirms the evidence of one's own eyes. The Holy Spirit does appear to blow from the north, backing southerly only when measurements for gaiters are taken.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILLCOCK,
St Michael's Vicarage,
389 Bury and Rochdale Old Road,
Heywood,
Lancashire,
April 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crackdown on diplomatic abuses

From Mr Peter Foster
Sir, Inevitably, a lot of nonsense is being written about the implications of the St James's Square incident and its antecedents. It ranges from the totally irresponsible—e.g., that we should send a punitive expedition to Libya to extract an apology and reparation for the murder of Yvonne Fletcher—to the obviously unrealistic—e.g., that the searching of diplomatic bags should be authorized on application by the International Court, the suspect bag presumably being held in bond while the legal action proceeded. May I suggest, if not a solution, at least a few practical parameters?

We have to start from the virtually certain assumption that the communist countries, not to go further and leaving aside mavericks like Gaddafi, would never accept a system of inspection, would block any attempt to set one up by international agreement and would take instant reprisals if any attempt were made to impose one on them.

The approach to tightening up on current abuse would have to be, therefore, through bilateral reciprocity, i.e., special restrictions applied between ourselves and specific countries. They could, for example, be made a prior condition of the resumption of diplomatic relations with Libya, if and when that time comes. We would thus not be unilaterally abrogating the Vienna Convention, only modifying its usual interpretation by mutual consent in specific cases.

Bilaterally agreed and reciprocally applied restrictions might take the form of granting immunity not to whole "pouches" (the size of a kitbag) but only to individual packages of strictly limited size and weight, capable perhaps of concealing small quantities of drugs or plastic explosive, but not firearms. Larger items, which we should ourselves need to send by secure means from time to time, e.g., cypher machines and other security equipment, would have to be subject to X-ray examination.

Confidential correspondence, for which the diplomatic pouch was originally invented, would present the least problem of all: modern automated cypher systems linked by diplomatic wireless or telex have already replaced to a large extent and could replace almost entirely the transmission of paper.

Of course Gaddafi might refuse to accept the "humiliation" of such "discriminatory" conditions for resuming diplomatic relations. But would that be so sad? And an important corollary would be readiness on our part to break relations as soon as reasonable evidence of abuse had accumulated, rather than waiting for indisputable proof by public tragedy.

This could create some further redundancies in the Foreign Office's establishment, in Damascus, for example, as well as Tripoli. But the job of diplomats, as of other public servants, is to protect their country's interests, which include the uphold-

ing of international standards of civilized conduct.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FOSTER,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1,
April 28.

From Mr John Gouriet
Sir, Mr Maloney's thoughtful letter (April 25) highlights several points on which, if HM Government, or at least Cobra (Cabinet Office briefing room) have taken cognisance, there is little evidence of action.

Some so-called "civilised" people may eschew the time-honoured penalty of "an eye for an eye", but followers of the Koran still respect such a daunting deterrent.

Why is it that Cobra did not react with the same speed as its namesake? Why did we not immediately seek to galvanise world opinion in our favour, call a Security Council debate to redefine and amend the Vienna Convention? It is surely in most countries' interest to deny international terrorists shelter behind a cloak of diplomatic immunity.

If Nigeria can remove such immunity to thwart currency movements, how much more justified are HMG in bringing to justice those who saw fit to spray London square with machine-gun bullets and so murder a police officer on duty.

British citizens, working on their own volition and presumably for substantial remuneration, in and for Libya, may have expected harassment, even deportation. However, I doubt that they would have fared worse. Colonel Gaddafi is certainly a fanatic, but he is not a fool. His zealousness in Sir James's over-reaction, however he is unlikely to have compounded their gaffe had we taken a tougher line sooner, and provided we had world opinion with us.

Now it is suggested that the trail is too stale for even the forensic experts to identify the murderer. Nevertheless I believe it is totally unacceptable to the majority of the British people, and certainly to her colleagues, that those responsible for the death of WPC Fletcher should merely be deported, untried and therefore unpunished.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GOURIET (Chairman,
Freedom in Action),
34 Parkview Court,
Fulham High Street, SW6,
April 26.

Housing needs of rural elderly

From the Minister for Housing and Construction
Sir, I write to correct some misunderstandings in the letter (April 23) from Mr Robin Thompson of the National Agricultural Centre Housing Association, and others on proposals in the Housing and Building Control Bill to safeguard the position of elderly persons' dwellings in rural areas under the right to buy.

The additional safeguard approved by the House of Commons on April 12 (local authorities in designated rural areas already have the right to impose 10-year pre-emption covenants on all sales) would enable local authorities in those areas to apply to the Secretary of State to have individual elderly persons' dwellings exempted from the right to buy.

This safeguard would apply not only to the 22 areas described by Mr Thompson, but also to areas covered by the national parks and to all designated areas of outstanding natural beauty. In all, some 170 local authorities in England and Wales would be affected to a greater or lesser extent.

As I made clear in the House on April 12, in considering future applications from local authorities for designation as rural areas, the Secretary of State will take account of any representations on the problems faced by a particular area in meeting the housing needs of the elderly.

The House of Commons also approved on April 12 an additional safeguard which will allow authorities selling elderly persons' dwellings to impose a pre-emption covenant over a period of 21 years not merely when a dwelling is sold but also when it passes on death to a non-resident beneficiary other than a surviving spouse.

I emphasise that sheltered accommodation and housing owned by charitable housing associations (of which the National Agricultural Centre Housing Association is one) will remain excluded from the right to buy.

Yours faithfully,
IAN GOW,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street, SW1,
April 30.

From Mr D. H. Street
Sir, Why do you say in your first letter (April 30) that there is no way that the St James's Square episode can be presented as other than a humiliation for the United Kingdom? On the contrary, our behaviour has in every way been honourable. If it has been humiliating, it can't have been humiliating.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. STREET,
Lownds Farm, North Clifton,
Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire.

From Mr Fred Uhlman
Sir, In reply to Professor Shaw's letter (April 21), may I point out that I have been collecting African art for over 30 years and have just presented my collection to a British museum?

I know for certain that without the interest of Europeans, some of them artists like Picasso, Braque, Matisse, Epstein, who were deeply influenced by African art—see Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger"—thousands of the most precious masks and fetishes would have been destroyed by the climate and the termites, but most of all by the total lack of interest by the Africans themselves, who threw marvellous old pieces away or sold them for the price of a goat or sheep to dealers.

Many of us hoped that with independence the situation would improve, but alas, it has grown worse. Instead of protecting their most sacred objects, some corrupt chieftains are still selling aeroplane loads to dealers, who in turn sell them for huge prices in Paris, London and New York.

Professor Shaw, whose views I share, will probably be shocked by this revelation, but nothing can be done to protect the African heritage so long as the Africans themselves do not act before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,
FRED UHLMAN,
47 Downshire Hill, NW3,
April 24.

From Mr David Harrington
Sir, The Post Office is in the middle of a witty advertising campaign touting the bewildering array of services to be had at any post office. The humorous is, of course, that one cannot actually buy anything at all, not so much as a stamp, at a post office for the interminable queues to be found there.

Might the Government not insist that the Post Office provides service, at all times within opening hours, so that we do not have to wait more than a few minutes to be served? Only when the Post Office is offering its existing services efficiently should it be allowed to offer new ones.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARRINGTON,
40 Leighton Road, NWS,
April 28.

Traveller's joy
From Prebendary John C. de la T. Davies
Sir, Both our swallows returned today. Last year only one returned, and took so long to find a new mate that they only had time to rear a single brood.

They have already inspected the old nest, in the porch directly above the back door of the rectory. We have therefore refilled the puddle in our car park that provides them with building materials, though we do not expect them to start nest building for a few days.

As usual they look rather scruffy after their 6,000-mile flight, so they rest for a while, perching side by side on our electricity supply cable, preening themselves and making occasional short flights to enjoy the beauty and catch the flying insects of the Golden Valley.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. DE LA T. DAVIES,
Petrarch Rectory,
Hereford,
April 26.

TESTING, TESTING

British sixth-formers know more about their exam subjects than their peers in almost any other country; unfortunately they know almost nothing else. Education after sixteen in this country is intense but narrow, and pupils subjected to the stereotype of the three-A-level regime have all too little time to look outside it and build upon the fast-fading remnants of the little learning they acquired in O-level days. Even dons have begun to notice it, and complain—though it is dons who must in the last resort bear much of the blame. Sir Keith Joseph's proposals for new exams designed to enable full-time A-level students (and some others) to widen their area of study will not work, unless the institutions of higher education that those students have set their ambitions on treat the new courses seriously.

In spite of considerable expressed goodwill in higher education, the time is not altogether propitious. Though the Government is reluctant to admit it because of the cost implications, the best evidence indicates that demand for higher education is going to increase throughout the rest of this century, even though the overall number of young people in that age-range is likely to decline for most of that period. If higher education is unable to cater for a greater demand, competition will grow more intense, and students will be reluctant to take risks in the courses they choose. At the same time, smaller schools and sixth-form colleges may not be eager to invest in untried courses. Higher education will have to

make it clear, through each university's official Requirements for Admission, that the risk is going to be worth taking.

The need is plain, and widely admitted. Last month, Oxford University told the University Grants Committee that the need for a broader sixth-form curriculum was "urgent". Three-quarters of A-level candidates drop either the humanities or science and maths completely at the age of 15 or 16. The result, when they get to college, is too often that the former are inarticulate (so their teachers bitterly complain) and the latter innumerate (their teachers may not always be qualified to notice). The dreadful plunge into a world unrelievedly scientific or relentlessly humane is one of the most dismal milestones of a school career. It is one of the causes of the "two cultures" divide which still runs through British society. Even within the two intellectual fortresses, the A-level pattern is often too inflexible to meet the needs of some students.

But the pattern has been formed chiefly by the requirements of higher education. General studies and non-exam courses have won little favour because they count little towards securing a college place. There is no avoiding the fact that a less narrow sixth-form regime will mean that university entrants are less thoroughly versed in the groundwork of their courses. The school week is only so long, and greater breadth can only be bought at the cost of some reduction in depth.

However, the change coincides with a reappraisal of

patterns in higher education too. The Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, claimed last month, for instance, that degree courses are too much formed by the needs of the minority of students aiming to go into research, and that lightening the course load might produce less dissatisfaction in the majority, and an output of more graduates and better teachers. The more intense the competition to enter a particular field, the more students may fear taking risks with the new courses. Medicine is the most extreme case of a discipline where demand is often alleged to cause selectors to concentrate on academic attainment at the expense of other qualities valuable in a communicating and caring profession.

Sir Keith shows an awareness of the dangers in his insistence on quality: the new exams are to be intellectually on a par with A-levels, though covering less ground, and to be closely coordinated with them in syllabus, but with an emphasis on practical applications that may provide some counterweight to the tendency for the claims of the academic to prevail over those of the practical in Britain. They are to be marked by objective criteria, not so as to give a certain proportion of candidates a win (a requirement even more desirable with an experimental exam than it would be with the A-level itself). Universities must respond to all this constructively. But ultimately the esteem the new exams secure will depend on the impression its products make on college selectors, and on employers.

Whitehall greybeards, those whom Hugh Dalton called "congenial snaguhters" to stop the "creative" ones getting out of hand. Such a team also needs a fixer or two, someone who knows where the bodies are buried in Whitehall, someone who can decode the real meaning of bland departmental submissions that cross the prime minister's desk. In short, what is needed, is a cabinet on the French model. In her expanded Policy Unit, Mrs Thatcher has something very close to it.

The existence of her second-term Policy Unit under the leadership of Mr John Redwood, raises two questions, one internal the other external. Does it pass the Sherman test of eschewing sycophancy and of telling the "patron" only those things she has "not heard before, but which once heard impress themselves"? Does it, put another way, speak truth to power? If it is so valuable to the Prime Minister why cannot her more heavily burdened Cabinet ministers have their own cabinets? The Treasury and the Foreign Office are pivotal institutions. Defence, Health and Social Security and Environment are big businesses as well as great departments of state. They would surely be more manageable if their secretaries of state each had a team of innovators, snag hunters and fixers? Or is that asking too much of a Prime Minister who, like all her recent predecessors in No 10, too often feels cornered or outnumbered when faced with the departmental satrapies that surround her?

Sound men, the "good and the great" of public life, may bridge when Sir Alfred and Mr Strauss denounce the Civil Service and call for innovation, creativity, fantasy or isolation. Heterodoxy, and spiky people to promulgate it, are a necessary part of any prime ministerial team. So are

Inside most men and women with a strong interest in public affairs there lurks a would-be adviser to a prime minister. Consider the attractions. Without the need to suffer the indignity of the selection process to become a parliamentary candidate and the exhaustion of an election, or even the rigorous requirements of the Civil Service Selection Board and the steady plod to high Whitehall office, you can have the ear of the mighty. Hobby-horses when translated into a Prime Minister's Minute acquire the ability to run and run where, in less exalted circumstances, they could fall at the first fence, victims of scepticism and conventional wisdom. Yet the life of a prime minister's intimate can be perilous. One slip and you plunge into outer darkness. The safe route is conformity to the known preferences of the patron. That path is itself a form of death, according to Sir Alfred Sherman, a Thatcher intimate from the Centre for Policy Studies stable, in his lecture at the London School of Economics last night. He would sooner, he said, face political death than become a courtier.

Mrs Thatcher's premiership has been singular for several reasons. One unusual aspect has been the cluster of former advisers who have gone public on their craft while she is still in No 10 (indeed, Sir Alfred, who was never on the Whitehall payroll, can still be called an adviser in the informal sense of the word). The couple who have lectured on the subject in the past five days, Sir Alfred and Mr

INSIDE NUMBER TEN

Norman Strauss, a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit until 1982, have gone against the contemporary grain by suggesting that, far from the Prime Minister's style being too presidential and insufficiently collective, Mrs Thatcher should isolate herself still further (Mr Strauss's advice) and strengthen herself against the pressures of Whitehall and vested departmental interests (Sir Alfred).

Two more Thatcher advisers have in the recent past contributed to the debate on how the Prime Minister should run the country. The best known is Sir John Hoskyns, her former senior policy adviser, who has said repeatedly in public that without a transfusion of new men and new methods into Whitehall, even a formidable politician like Mrs Thatcher cannot devise a strategy for lasting economic recovery. While Professor John Ashworth, Vice-Chancellor of Salford University and former Chief Scientist in the Central Policy Review Staff, has told her not to despise the social sciences or think tanks and to avoid "the temptation to look to... husbands, chauffeurs, hairdressers, old school chums and especially family relatives for advice and support in fields other than the emotional/personal".

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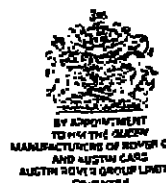
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AUSTIN ROVER



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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Blue chips cautious

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, April 30. Dealings end, May 11. Contango Day, May 14. Settlement Day, May 21.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	533.32 (531.83)
500 SHARE INDEX	533.77 (533.43)
EARNINGS YIELD	9.86% (9.85%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.14% (4.18%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.62 (12.62)
ALL SHARE INDEX	534.74 (534.84)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.33% (4.36%)

FT STOCK INDICES	
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	51.88 (51.82)
FIXED INTEREST	55.52 (55.50)
INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY	915.8 (910.7)
GOLD MINES	672.8 (676.0)
ORDINARY DIVIDEND YIELD	4.36% (4.25%)
EARNINGS YIELD	9.86% (9.85%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.62 (12.62)
P.E. RATIO (GEL)	11.75 (12.29)

1933/34			1934/35			1935/36			1936/37			1937/38			1938/39			1939/40			1940/41			1941/42			1942/43			1943/44			1944/45			1945/46			1946/47			1947/48			1948/49			1949/50			1950/51			1951/52			1952/53			1953/54			1954/55			1955/56			1956/57			1957/58			1958/59			1959/60			1960/61			1961/62			1962/63			1963/64			1964/65			1965/66			1966/67			1967/68			1968/69			1969/70			1970/71			1971/72			1972/73			1973/74			1974/75			1975/76			1976/77			1977/78			1978/79			1979/80			1980/81			1981/82			1982/83			1983/84			1984/85			1985/86			1986/87			1987/88			1988/89			1989/90			1990/91			1991/92			1992/93			1993/94			1994/95			1995/96			1996/97			1997/98			1998/99			1999/00			2000/01			2001/02			2002/03			2003/04			2004/05			2005/06			2006/07			2007/08			2008/09			2009/10			2010/11			2011/12			2012/13			2013/14			2014/15			2015/16			2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21			2021/22			2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			2028/29			2029/30			2030/31			2031/32			2032/33			2033/34			2034/35			2035/36			2036/37			2037/38			2038/39			2039/40			2040/41			2041/42			2042/43			2043/44			2044/45			2045/46			2046/47			2047/48			2048/49			2049/50			2050/51			2051/52			2052/53			2053/54			2054/55			2055/56			2056/57			2057/58			2058/59			2059/60			2060/61			2061/62			2062/63			2063/64			2064/65			2065/66			2066/67			2067/68			2068/69			2069/70			2070/71			2071/72			2072/73			2073/74			2074/75			2075/76			2076/77			2077/78			2078/79			2079/80			2080/81			2081/82			2082/83			2083/84			2084/85			2085/86			2086/87			2087/88			2088/89			2089/90			2090/91			2091/92			2092/93			2093/94			2094/95			2095/96			2096/97			2097/98			2098/99			2099/00			2100/01			2101/02			2102/03			2103/04			2104/05			2105/06			2106/07			2107/08			2108/09			2109/10			2110/11			2111/12			2112/13			2113/14			2114/15			2115/16			2116/17			2117/18			2118/19			2119/20			2120/21			2121/22			2122/23			2123/24			2124/25			2125/26			2126/27			2127/28			2128/29			2129/30			2130/31			2131/32			2132/33			2133/34			2134/35			2135/36			2136/37			2137/38			2138/39			2139/40			2140/41			2141/42			2142/43			2143/44			2144/45			2145/46			2146/47			2147/48			2148/49			2149/50			2150/51			2151/52			2152/53			2153/54			2154/55			2155/56			2156/57			2157/58			2158/59			2159/60			2160/61			2161/62			2162/63			2163/64			2164/65			2165/66			2166/67			2167/68			2168/69			2169/70			2170/71			2171/72			2172/73			2173/74			2174/75			2175/76			2176/77			2177/78			2178/79			2179/80			2180/81			2181/82			2182/83			2183/84			2184/85			2185/86			2186/87			2187/88			2188/89			2189/90			2190/91			2191/92			2192/93			2193/94			2194/95			2195/96			2196/97			2197/98			2198/99			2199/00			2200/01			2201/02			2202/03			2203/04			2204/05			2205/06			2206/07			2207/08			2208/09			2209/10			2210/11			2211/12			2212/13			2213/14			2214/15			2215/16			2216/17			2217/18			2218/19			2219/20			2220/21			2221/22			2222/23			2223/24			2224/25			2225/26			2226/27			2227/28			2228/29			2229/30			2230/31			2231/32			2232/33			2233/34			2234/35			2235/36			2236/37			2237/38			2238/39			2239/40			2240/41			2241/42			2242/43			2243/44			2244/45			2245/46			2246/47			2247/48			2248/49			2249/50			2250/51			2251/52			2252/53			2253/54			2254/55			2255/56			2256/57			2257/58		
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

NatWest counts the cost of Lawson's bank tax

National Westminster's chairman, Lord Boardman, mixed metaphors but not words at the bank's annual meeting yesterday when he strongly criticized the Government's Budget measures affecting the banks. The former Conservative minister said the clawback of deferred tax resulting from the changes in capital allowances and the decision to force the banks to become tax-collectors by moving to a composite rate system were "most unfortunate". They had already led to Barclays and National Westminster losing their American triple A debt ratings. Lord Boardman went on:

"There are not so many 'golden eggs' in the British economy that we can afford to 'clip the wings' of those that provide many of them. It is not contrary to the philosophy of the Government to penalize those sectors that have, as we have in this bank, succeeded so well against fierce international competition."

Whether the Treasury foresaw the full implications of what it was doing to the banks, we shall probably never know. It was certainly aware that there would be a large extra tax liability as deferred tax, not previously provided for, became payable at some point. In National Westminster's case the extra provision needed is £570m.

However Lord Boardman revealed yesterday that National Westminster will probably have to take a further £80m dent in its capital because of the impact of tax variation clauses in leasing contracts. These clauses mean that rentals on some contracts will fall with the reduction in tax rates. Leasing contracts would become less valuable and because a large proportion of the profit on them is often taken in the early years, the banks now find that they have already taken too much profit on certain contracts.

Although the problem over tax variation clauses is rather different from the deferred tax clawback, National Westminster plans to deal with them both in the same way by meeting the extra provisions from accumulated retained profits, so as to avoid distorting the profit and loss account or affecting earnings.

Lord Boardman was equally critical of the Government's decision to impose the composite rate on the banks, a form of taxation which he described as "regressive" and unfair to non-taxpayers. He revealed that the banks were trying to persuade the Inland Revenue to agree not to apply the system to smaller balances.

The British Bankers' Association has also been lobbying MPs to back a number of amendments to the Finance Bill on composite rate tax and capital allowances in the probably vain hope that the Government can be persuaded to soften a little. The relevant clauses are being discussed in the House of Commons this week.

Looking both ways on interest rates

The problem with watching a myriad monetary dials, as the British authorities now do, is how to react when they are pointing in different directions.

The broad money measures, house prices and the exchange rate would all seem to point in the direction of higher interest rates. Sterling M3 rose sharply in March and City analysts expect another set of bad figures for the April banking month - a rise of 1 per cent or more would take sterling M3 well above the top of the official 6 to 10 per cent range in the first two months of the new target period. The broader measure society deposits, is rising more rapidly still.

House prices are now increasing by

perhaps 10 to 15 per cent a year, a good deal faster than inflation. And the strengthening dollar, which continues to defy the laws of economic gravity, yesterday pushed the pound close to its record low of \$1.3910 seen in January, though it recovered to close in London at \$1.3980, little changed on the day. The pound's overall value now stands nearly 4 per cent below the effective rate of about 83 assumed in the Treasury's Budget forecast which predicted 4.5 per cent inflation by the end of the year.

All the signs are that the Treasury is taking a relaxed view, at least until Tuesday's money supply figures. The officials believe the growth of high-powered money, Mo, to be a better guide to interest rate decisions. And Mo, conveniently, has been extremely well behaved in recent months. There is little upward pressure on inflation.

Though money market rates moved up fractionally yesterday, a rise in the banks' base lending rates may still be some way off. But the next move will be up, and if American rates rise and sterling runs into really torrid weather, it may happen sooner rather than later.

Lord King delivers the goods at BA

Lord King duly delivered yesterday what he has always promised in the run-up to the privatization of British Airways - an operating profit in excess of £250m and a balance sheet that now has a modest filling of black ink. If the Government denies Sir Adam Thomson the transfer of routes to British Caledonian, he is vigorously and persuasively lobbying for, and there is no another slump in the aviation business this year, BA will indeed be ready for the stock market by the end of this year. Such a prospect was distinctly implausible looking two, let alone three years ago.

BA's figures are all the more creditable given that airline passenger traffic fell by six per cent in revenue/kilometre terms last year, a decline that afflicted all parts of BA's network except northern Europe. Higher fares and a surprisingly good showing by the unfashionable cargo business actually boosted airline revenue by £171m. But at the end of the day it was cost savings that were decisive in turning this eight per cent rise in revenue into a 56 per cent increase in operating surplus, from £174m to £272m.

Most of the benefits of lower oil prices were washed away by the weaker pound, but staff costs were flat, felled by the redundancy axe.

On the cash flow side, BA generated an impressive surplus of £435m, £250m of which went on capital spending and the balance on repaying £164m of its huge debt mountain. The omens for making further inroads into the remaining £900m of debt - essential for flotation purposes - are looking quite good. BA's chief executive Colin Marshall is encouraged by the signs of pick-up in traffic this year.

Into this equation must be fed the need to pay dividends from next year, and the still meagre looking £124m of net worth.

There remains the redoubtable Sir Adam. Having appeared to hint yesterday that he would resign if the Government gave in to any of BCal's demands, Lord King resolutely denied later that this was what he meant. Nobody need doubt however that the Prime Minister has been made all too aware of his total opposition to losing any of his assets. The still open outcome of this now deeply politically entrenched battle will be a potent factor for the stock market, as well as for the future of British civil aviation.

Attack by bankers deepens doubts over future of CSI

By Philip Robinson

Fresh doubts were cast yesterday over whether the Council for the Securities Industry will survive proposed City changes to increase protection for Britain's investors.

The powerful Accepting Houses Committee, an elite of 16 top merchant banks, says the CSI, set up in 1978, has tried to cover too large an area and has failed to achieve enough credibility and practical usefulness.

The attack comes in the AHC's formal response to professor Laurence Gower's *Review of Investor Protection*, a two-year study with recommendations on how the City's rules and structure should be changed to protect the investor from the unscrupulous.

The City has consistently argued that self regulation is the ideal way to police the City. But the AHC and others have gone so far as suggesting that, should self regulation not prove possible, a commission responsible to the Department

of Trade and Industry and made up of senior City representatives and civil servants, would take on the role.

The bankers are careful too to make it clear that this should not turn into an American-style Securities and Exchange Commission, but it is the first admission by a leading City group that self regulation may prove impossible.

Its views have deepened sharp split of opinion over the City's future structure which has emerged various organizations have publicized their submissions to the Gower report.

Broadly, most accept that the best method would be self regulatory groups, organized by function, whose executive bodies would have control over the behaviour of members. This would mean that all those advisers dealing in one particular form of investment industry would go into one group. These groups would ultimately report to the department.

The split has developed over whether the CSI should play a coordinating role to help set up the groups and later take a position between them and the department as the City's top policeman.

The Unit Trust Association has already rejected the idea of the CSI being implanted above its own regulatory group. The Association of Investment Trust Companies has now joined the attack, saying the CSI's membership and character would have to be changed if it were to have a place in the new structure.

The association says: "It does not appear in its present form to command the necessary degree of confidence in the minds of the general public at least. It has been criticized as being too cosy and secretive, ineffective and dominated by the sectional interests of the institutions which are its members."

But Mr David Tucker, managing director of M&G Securities, which is one of the top two unit trust groups on

Britain supports the CSI, but attacks the Gower report. He dislikes attempts to bunch life assurance and unit trusts under the same self regulatory control.

Meanwhile, the new Registry of Life Assurance Commission (Rolac) has welcomed the Gower report proposals on limiting the Commissions paid to intermediaries.

The suggestion of a separate self regulatory group is also put forward for itself by the Issuing Houses Association. Its 53 members deal with new issues business and raises fresh capital for companies.

Its submission suggests that all those involved in corporate finance in merchant banks and members of the Stock Exchange should come under one association which would include the Quotations Department of the Stock Exchange.

This, says the association, would establish a comprehensive corporate finance authority.

M&S profit leaps to record £279.3m

By Ian Griffiths

Lord Sieff, who steps down as chairman of Marks and Spencer in July, unveiled his final set of figures yesterday to reveal record pretax profits of £279.3m - a 22.5 per cent increase in dividends to 6.25p, and a proposal for a one-for-one scrip issue.

He also announced a decision to accept credit cards for the first time in the company's 100 years. The credit cards, called the Marks & Spencer charge card, will be issued on a trial basis to customers shopping in the Scottish stores. The experiment begins next month and if it is a success the scheme will be extended throughout Britain in 1985.

Marks and Spencer is looking for 1.25 million card holders over a five-year period but the number could go as high as 5 million. It will take about two years for the scheme to make a contribution to profits but this will depend on the proportion of those who use the card's credit facility and incur interest charges.

Scotland was chosen for the trial because it is a clearly identifiable area. Although the Scots are not prolific credit card users the Scottish outlets are the chain's fastest growing stores. The trial will be operated for the chain by North West Securities, a member of the Bank of Scotland Group.

Marks and Spencer is now set to move away from its traditional high street locations and open out-of-town stores. Feasibility and planning studies have demonstrated that the concept will work and sites are being sought. Part of the logic for this is that city centre locations cannot offer adequate car parking.

Despite an increase in turnover from £2,276m to £2,596.7m Lord Sieff conceded that mistakes had been made during the year. He cited weaknesses in the range of clothing, particularly for the under-25s and in the outside range, and the failure to meet customer demand for footwear in 100 stores as examples. The group is also revamping its children's wear department.



Lord Sieff: first credit card

GEC cash reserves will aid companies

By Our City Editor

GEC, the turbines to washing machines group led by Lord Weinstock, is to use part of its £1.5 billion cash mountain to set up an outpatients' department for ailing companies.

After months of speculation, culminating in the £43m purchase of a 4 per cent stake in Distillers Company, GEC was finally drawn into issuing a statement last night on what it terms its "so-called cash mountain".

The statement says: "Because of GEC's positive cash flow, remunerative outlets will be sought for investment of money for the time being not required for the company's normal business."

A part of the cash resources is being set aside to form a specialized activity in this field, and the company may be able to assist managements of companies in which it takes a stake to improve their performance, to the general benefit."

The intention is that in this way, GEC will earn a better return on its money "in the long run" than deposits or interest-bearing securities.

And in an astonishing break with its normally cautious tone in public pronouncements,



Lord Weinstock: drawn into issuing a statement

GEC names Distillers, the Johnnie Walker whisky and Gordon's gin business, as the first client which it "may be able to assist".

On December 24 last year *The Times* registered the accumulation of shares in Distillers, and last week it named GEC unequivocally as the buyer.

Since 1979, Distillers' turnover has grown from £940m to only £1.1 billion as the world lost its taste for scotch. Profits this year are expected to fall from the 1983 figure of £200m.

Receivers in at Midland Industries

By Jonathan Clare

Midland Industries, one of the best-known names in Britain's "metal-bashing" industry, yesterday called in the receivers after days of speculation.

The company is believed to have debts of about £12m and a week ago called in Hill Samuel, the merchant bank, for advice.

The company needed a cash injection of £2m to continue trading but the banks, led by the Bank of Scotland, declined to continue support after a detailed review of operations.

Shares were suspended last week after plunging to only 7p following the sale by Mr Edward Nassar, a Swiss-based businessman, of part of his stake. Mr Nassar chairs another Midland Company, Blue Bird Confectionery.

Midland has suffered from a long-term decline in demand for products like valves, and also from import competition.

Mr Bill Mackey and Mr W M Roberts, of Ernst and Whinney, have been appointed receivers and are currently trying to untangle the group's complex accounts. They intend to continue the business while looking for buyers.

Stamp duty exemption

Companies which buy their own shares are to be exempted from paying stamp duty on the transactions, Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, announced in a written Parliamentary answer yesterday.

The Companies Act of 1981 allows companies to buy their own shares but although it exempted them from paying Capital Gains Tax on any future issue of the cancelled shares, nothing was said about transfer duty.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 136.8 down 1.5 (day's high 1.137.2; low 1.133.1)
FT 100 Index: 915.8 up 5.7
FT All Share: 81.66 up 0.06
Bargains: 20.001
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 115.12 up 0.42
New York: Dow Jones Ind. Average (latest) 1178.50 up 7.85
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 11 019.09 down 2.81
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1034.73 down 2.33

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.3980 down 5pts
Index 79.8 up 0.1
DM 3.8150 up 0.0150
FF 11.6950 up 0.0350
Sfr 317.25 down 25
Dollar Index 130.0 up 0.3
DM 2.7280 up 0.0080
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4000
Dollar DM 2.7240

INTERNATIONAL

ECU rate SDR 748009

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8 1/2
Finance houses base rate 9
Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2
3 month interbank 9 1/4

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11 1/4-11 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month FR 12 1/2-12 3/4

US rates:
Bank prime rate 12 00
Fed funds 11
Treasury long bond 93 1/2-93 3/4

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period from April 4 to May 1 1984, inclusive 8 3/4 per cent

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$376.40 pm \$376.50
close \$377.25-\$377.75 (E270-270.50)

New York (latest) \$377.75
Kruggerand (per cent)
\$388.50-\$390.12 (E278-279)

Sovereigns (new)
\$88.50-\$89.50 (E63.75-64)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mezzanine buys into publisher

Mezzanine Capital Corporation, the British-backed US investment adviser by Charterhouse J. Rothschild, has invested \$7.6m (£5.45m) in New American Library, the fourth largest US paperback book publisher.

The money buys a subordinated loan note and a 10 per cent equity interest.

● TARMAC, the quarry products, building materials, construction and housebuilding group, increased pretax profits by 30 per cent to a record £39.6m last year. A proposed final dividend of 10p will lift the year's total 23.6 per cent to 13.6p. *Temps*, page 16

● J. HEPWORTH & SON, the high-street fashion retailer, increased pretax profits for the six months to February 29 to £6.6m (£3.7m). Turnover increased from £52.1m to £56.5m and the interim dividend is 2.25p (1.59). *Temps*, page 16

● Pretax profits of Satchi & Satchi for the six months to March 31 nearly doubled from £4.8m to £9.2m. The interim dividend is up from 2.82p to 5.64p and the half-time payment includes 1.22p of exceptional income. *Temps*, page 16

● A STRENGTHENING of the board of Jaguar Cars, the BL subsidiary soon to be privatized, was announced with the addition of Mr Hamish Orr-Ewing, chairman of Rank Xerox as chairman designate and Mr Edward Bond, finance director of Beecham Group.

North Sea output slips

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

North Sea oil output has fallen during March to slightly over 2.5 million barrels a day, still 400,000 barrels a day above the production ceiling that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries feels is Britain's "natural level of output."

Members of Opec still feel that Britain should keep its North Sea production at around 2.1 million barrels a day at a time when it is attempting to

enforce an overall 17.5 million barrels a day production limit. However, Britain has always maintained that the Government has no power to limit output.

Figures issued by Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, show that in March production fell to over 2.5 million barrels a day because of maintenance at several fields and that annual output is now averaging 2.37 million barrels a day.

British drive aims to double consumer sales US export battle stepped up

By John Lawless

The Government yesterday announced its biggest export promotion drive in the US market. One of its aims is to double annual consumer goods sales over the next few years.

Lord Jellicoe, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said at the launch ceremony: "The US is the world's largest import market and Britain's biggest overseas market. It ran neck and neck with West Germany for quite a time, but has now outdistanced it."

Although trade officials are anxious to stress the improved performance of British exporters in the market, the 27 per cent rise in the value of goods sold there last year was more than half accounted for by the strong downward movement of sterling against the dollar. By volume, exports rose between 8 and 11 per cent.

Lord Jellicoe said: "The value conceals the fact that our share of the market fell from

over 5 per cent in 1982 to 4.6 per cent last year which meant that we were doing less well than competitors."

"Of what the average American household buys, only half of one per cent is accounted for by British products. Our immediate target is to double that."

A breakdown of trade statistics shows how big a target that is, even though the aim is to achieve the increase over five years. Total exports last year were worth £8.3 billion. However, when oil is extracted, the sales figure fell to £5.5 billion of which about a third (or £1.8 billion) was accounted for by consumer goods.

The campaign will have full national advertising backing and will see the return, after three years, of government subsidised sales missions for exporters in certain industries. There will also be free seminars during the coming year in Britain, and an increase in store

promotions in America, again backed by BOTB cash.

The drive will get the full backing of ministers and big companies which serve British exporters, starting on May 13, when a week long to the US west coast by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has been deliberately timed to coincide with a trade mission sponsored by Barclays Bank and organized by the London Chamber of Commerce. A promotion group from the British Invisible Exports Council will be there at the same time.

The west coast is a particular target area. Lord Jellicoe said: "Personal income is 18 per cent above the US national average."

Mr Frank Kennedy, Britain's New York-based director general of trade development, said: "Trading conditions in the US were better last year than for five perhaps even eight or nine years."

	1975
Turnover	£m 104.2
Profit	
Before tax	2.1
After actual tax	1.8
Ordinary shareholders' funds	7.5
Per ordinary share	
Earnings - actual tax	6.4p
- full tax	3.5p
Dividends	0.88p
Dividend cover	7.3

This covers ten Years Unbroken Success

	1983	1984
Turnover	£m 401.6	£m 461.2
Profit		
Before tax	10.5	13.2
After actual tax	8.0	9.2
Ordinary shareholders' funds	36.0	38.0
Per ordinary share		
Earnings - actual tax	27.8p	31.7p
- full tax	17.0p	22.2p
Dividends	5.0p	6.0p
Dividend cover	5.6	5.3

Extracts from a statement by the Chairman, Mr John M Menzies:

- "Over the past ten years sales have risen from £104 million to £461 million and pretax profits have risen in unbroken succession from £2.1 million to £13.2 million. This performance has been achieved without diluting shareholders equity or taking borrowings to unacceptable levels."
- "Compared to last year, sales have increased by 15% and pretax profits by 26%, reflecting a welcome margin improvement in our Retail Division

and subsidiary companies. A final dividend of 4.0p per share is recommended making a total dividend of 6.0p per share, an increase of 20%."

- "The directors are recommending a scrip issue of one ordinary 25p share for each ordinary 25p share held."
- "The current year has started well in all divisions with retail sales proving notably buoyant and I am optimistic that we have another year of increased profits ahead of us."

If you would like to receive a copy of John Menzies' 1984 Annual Report, please write to The Secretary, John Menzies plc, Hanover Buildings, Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2YQ.

John Menzies

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Hanson nears US Industries deal

By Michael Clark

Hanson Trust appears to be home and dry in its \$531m (£370m) takeover bid for US Industries in the United States. The US Industries board said yesterday that it was withdrawing its objections to Hanson's \$23 a share offer because a management buy-out group had been unable to find the finance to mount a rival bid worth \$24. It said it was continuing its efforts to find the money but "major obstacles remained to be overcome".

Sir Gordon White, the Hanson executive in charge of the group's extensive US operations, said: "I would like something a bit more positive like a recommendation to accept our bid and I am meeting the US Industries directors later to discuss this. But the signs are good."

Hanson shares surged 20p through the chart break point of 200p to a record high of 219p in response to the news. At this level the ordinary shares alone are worth £1.42 billion and on top of that there is considerable value built into the Hanson convertibles.

The rest of the equity market remained in a cautious mood with investors still worried by US interest rates and possible selling of shares by US investors. However, turnover was last night described as light with most of the attention focused on second liners and takeover situations.

It was left up to a single handed effort by Distillers, the Johnnie Walker and White Horse scotch whisky to Gordons Gin company, to keep the FT index's head above water. After yesterday's report in *The Times* that GEC had increased its holding to just over 4 per cent (worth a cool £47.25m) the

shares leapt 25p to a record high of 315p. The statement from GEC regarding its acquisition and investment policy came too late to affect the price. In the event, the index closed at its high for the day 5.7 up at a record high of 915.8. The FT-SE 100 reflected a clearer trend closing 1.5 down at 1136.8.

Among the leaders, Allied Lyons rose 3p to 174p, BICC 3p to 263p, GEC 8p to 190p, Peninsula & Oriental 3p to 327p, Thorn EMI 2p to 634p and Trusthouse Forte 1p to 126p. But there were losses in BTR 3p to 489p, Bescann 5p 32p, Blue Circle 3p to 426p, Boots 2p to 179p, Bowater 3p to 311p, Glaxo 10p to 765p.

The bid whispers are again doing the rounds in Ranks Hovis McDougall and yesterday successfully cut short an early bout of selling to leave the shares unchanged at 90 1/2 p. Word is a group of overseas buyers are putting together a deal and may be about to bid for S & W Berisford's important 14.9 per cent stake. Berisford was unavailable for comment, but at this level RHM is valued at £24m.

Hawker Siddeley 4p to 458p, ICI 10p to 616p, Plessey 4p to 242p, and TI Group 2p to 260p. Glits spent another quiet day, still overshadowed by the strength of the dollar and last week's announcement of a new £1,000m "tap" stock. Falls extended to 1 1/4 in longs, while at the shorter end prices were barely tested.

On the bid front, Martin Ford advanced 1 1/2p to 62p on the news that The Rochdale Canal Co had bought 800,000 shares equal to about 5.12 per cent of the total equity.

Rochdale Canal also holds a sizable stake in Stylo, which has just fought off an approach from Harris Queensway.

Events continue to move swiftly at Southend Stadium where the shares raced away 8p to a new high of 59p yesterday. In addition to the proposed board reshuffle, Yelverton Investments, Mr Jim Slater's latest public vehicle, has confirmed it owns 900,000 shares, or 17.67 per cent of the equity. Southend's biggest rival GRA, which controls the majority of the organized dog racing tracks in Britain, also owns a near 30 per cent stake in the company and this has led to speculation that part of the group's property assets may be developed with the help of its new backers. GRA responded with a rise of 2p to 67p.

Europeo has emerged as the buyer of Sir Benjamin Slade's stake in Richardson Westgarth. Europeo confirmed it had bought 1.2 million shares from Shirlstar for an undisclosed price following Sir Benjamin's resignation from the Richardson Westgarth board. Shares of Richardson closed hardened 1p to 30p.

Metal Closures held steady at 189p after Mr K. H. Fischer, a director, announced he bought extra 599,000 shares taking his total holding to 1.59 million, or just over the disclosable 5 per cent level.

London Overseas Freightier is continuing to have talks with its bankers over their continued support and is now attempting to arrange underwriting facilities for a rights issue as part of the conditions for continued support laid down by the bankers. Despite an improvement in freight rates further "substantial" losses will be

reported for the second half. The news clipped 3p from the shares at a new low of 15p. Martin the Newsgate continued to make headway following the news of an approach from a mystery bidder. The shares hit 2066p, at one stage, before reacting to 250p, a net loss on the day of 1p.

Henry Ansbacher Holdings, the merchant banking group, took on its third leading equity partner in eight years yesterday when it announced terms for Pargesa Holding, a Swiss investment firm, and Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, the Belgian financial conglomerate, to buy a stake of up to 29.99 per cent. Pargesa and Groupe Bruxelles will underwrite a one-for-three

The jobbers are having a lean time of things in Pauls & Whites, the mailster and animal feedstuffs group. Yesterday the shares added 2p to 255p - just 10p short of the year's high - and a two-day rise of 12p. One big buyer is known to be sniffing around and word in the market suggests a bid, eventually, from J. Bibby. At this level, Pauls & Whites is valued at £72.5m.

rights issue at 100p a share. As some Ansbacher shareholders have said they will waive their rights, the newcomers will acquire at least 17 per cent of the enlarged capital in this way.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **LEGAL AND GENERAL:** The group is joining the European Banking company to market the European Banking Traded Currency Fund in Britain.

● **MICRO BUSINESS SYSTEMS:** The chairman, Mr

Clive Richards says in his annual review that 1984 has started well. The original group together with Alveronic, had been set significantly increased targets for 1984. In the first three months of year, these have been exceeded.

Margin clawback is not only successful, witness the 60 per cent improvement in the US Compton buy, post acquisition, but has further to go. Saatchi's British margins are now 2 per cent, compared with a target 3 per cent, and profitability in the US can also improve.

Finally, to suggestions that the really big US agencies, like Young and Rubicam are just too large to overhaul, Saatchi retorts that its motivation and lively sense of regionalism can test US flab. On this basis, diversification plans, perhaps into building a world wide PR agency, look far less mercurial, and with massive credit lines, to back up its cash, Saatchi could inject its tough financial systems into a fairly significant acquisition.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **HOSKINS AND HORTON:** The group turnover for 1983 rose to £12.04m from £10.81m with pretax profits at £931,000 (£524,000). Share price yesterday was 183p (after 186p) up 3p.

● **ROWLAND GAUNT:** Turnover for the six months to October 31 was down to £8,566 (£70,127) with a trading loss of £41,827 (loss £18,389). Pretax loss rose £43,203 (loss £22,579). Loss per share before extraordinary debit was 13.94p (6.13p). No interim dividend was declared.

● **AYRSHIRE METAL PRODUCTS:** Turnover for 1983 rose to £14.09m from £13.81m with pretax profit at £56,000 against £339,000 loss.

● **A. & C. BLACK:** The company has declared a final dividend of 6p making 9p (7.5p). Turnover for 1983 rose to £3.2m from £2.7m with pretax profit at £362,000 (£335,000). Shares rose to 340p, up 15p.

● **BENJAMIN PRIEST Group:** Armstrong Equipment and Benjamin Priest have announced an agreement which will contribute significantly to the rationalization of the British fastener industry. Benjamin Priest and Sons, BPG's bolt making subsidiary, is to be closed and certain operations to be transferred within the group. Shares rose to 23p, up 1p.

● **C. H. PEARCE AND SONS:** The company has declared an interim dividend of 1.5p (1.17p). Group turnover for the six months to November 30 but rose to £13.79m (£11.89m) with pretax profit at £11.33m (£1.29m).

● **CAMBRIAN AND GENERAL SECURITIES:** Gross income for this six months to March 31st rose to £2.19m (£850,000). Interim dividend was unchanged at 0.25p. Pretax revenue was up to 195,000 (£194,000). Shares rose to 74p.

● **EATON CORPORATION:** Eaton has acquired the California-based Master Specialties, a privately held manufacturer of illuminated push-button switches and related technology. ● **TOWERGOULD/CLAY-HITHE:** Subscriptions for Towergold's offer of convertible unsecured loan stock 1989/91 have been received for £3,376,000. The offers by the company for the ordinary capital and loan stock of Clayhite have been posted to Clayhite shareholders.

● **DRILLING TOOLS:** Acceptances of the offers by Petrocon to acquire Drilling Tools capital not already owned by Petrocon have been received in respect of 147,014 existing ordinary shares. Acceptances of the offers, together with the 65,500 ordinary shares already owned by Petrocon, amount to 212,514 existing ordinary (96.45 per cent).

TEMPUS

After the boom days Saatchi diversifies

Some years ago, Saatchi & Saatchi hit on the idea of offering clients worldwide coordinated promotion campaigns, a natural, and even slightly belated response to the spread of the multinational.

The idea, a classic "gap in the market" perception, has worked so well that Saatchi & Saatchi now ranks number seven among world advertising agencies: has 70 offices in 40 countries; a pair of the network sports a Wall Street listing; and has nearly £40m lodged in the bank. Back in the late seventies Saatchi was making less than £2m a year pretax.

Nor have the shareholders been ignored. Between 1978 and 1983, the cost of the payout has jumped to £180,000 to over £2m, and if this year's doubled interim forms any guide, the value of the full-year dividend in 1983-84 could be around £3m.

The snap reaction to the glittering record must be to sell the shares, on the grounds that such growth, like the unicorn, will not pass this way again. Comments by the company yesterday that it is now seeking to diversify could imply an impending move towards a lower growth rate.

Despite the heady multiple however, 30 at last night's closing price of 74 1/2 p, it is possibly premature to switch on to the bear track. The advertising sector itself is growing at around 12 per cent a year, and Saatchi's interim turnover gain of around 40 per cent represents an above-average expansion rate.

House building is set for another strong year in 1984. Completions are expected to rise from 6,200 to more than 7,000, while acquisitions will contribute several millions in their own right, there are also unquantifiable benefits through integration with existing Tarmac businesses.

Moreover, Tarmac subsidiaries in both South Africa and the US will do well this year while building products in France, which lost more than £1m in 1983, should break even after remedial action.

Profits of more than £105m look possible, with more on the cards in 1985 when the group should begin to benefit significantly from its high level of capital spending in the past two years. Tarmac's acquisition ambitions in the US where it is

Market hopes are now for further growth in the second half for a full year outturn of about £18m (11.2m), which gives earnings per share of 37p and the shares, which at 52 1/2 stand on a prospective multiple of 9.2 and a yield of 3.7 per cent, continue to represent reasonable value.

Perhaps the group should now do the whole world a favour by pitching for the Fed account, and cheering up the bonds.

Tarmac

After the unnerving announcement by George Wimpey last week that it is providing £41.7m against losses in overseas construction, Tarmac must be thanking its lucky stars that it learned its lesson about the risks of international contracting so painfully in Nigeria six years ago.

Never since, it has been winding down its overseas construction side and last year the division accounted for a mere £30m out of group sales of £1.65 billion, allowing Tarmac's carefully integrated spread of aggregate, building product and housebuilding businesses to show their places free from troublesome contracts in faraway places.

Pretax profits rose 30 per cent, helped by buoyant results from housebuilding, where the group achieved a big recovery in profits by switching emphasis from second to first-time buyers, and excellent progress in the big quarry products division.

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CWS profits slip by 2% as turnover increases

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Co-Operative Wholesale Society's 1983 trading profits slipped 2 per cent, on a £2.1 billion turnover that was 8 per cent higher.

And Mr Dennis Landau, the chief executive, warned yesterday that Co-op retail societies were unlikely to see any significant short-term recovery of the market share lost in the last few years.

J. Sainsbury had moved ahead in the packaged grocery market, said Mr Landau, but the Co-op was still Britain's biggest retailer, with a spread of goods and services ranging from most household items to funerals, and providing a third of the nation's milk.

Despite reduced profits of £16.6m, the CWS is increasing by £1.5m to £6m its dividend to retail societies, to which it is

main supplier of goods, some produced in CWS factories.

With reduced Co-op trading as smaller outlets phased out by retail societies, the CWS is anxious to encourage retail societies to buy more from the CWS, which at present supplies 75 to 80 per cent.

The increased dividend is also seen as aid for retail societies struggling to meet intense competition.

CWS retailing, which now accounts for 11 per cent of all Co-op retailing, also faced £1.9m in losses in taking over a number of troubled retail societies in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Rationalization and re-organization throughout the CWS cost another £4m.

But CWS capital investment has increased by £10m to £58m.

£24,000 pay rise for Laird Group chief

By Jonathan Clare

Mr John Gardiner, chief executive of the Laird Group, received a pay increase of almost one-third last year, according to the annual report published yesterday.

The increase is from £74,000 to £98,000 and is not part of a formal profit-related pay scheme. However, the company pointed out that in previous years he has received a much smaller increase - in 1982 his pay went up by only £2,000 to £74,000.

The annual report also shows that he now has options on more than 400,000 Laird shares against 280,000 in 1982. The increase in the share options is directly linked to his salary.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound rallied well from early selling pressure yesterday which forced the rate against the dollar to within a whisker of its lowest traded position of 1.3910, plummeted in early January. At the close sterling had recovered to 1.3980, just five points below Monday's close.

The pound's trade weighted index finished slightly ahead at 79.8 compared with 79.7 overnight, while in terms of other leading currencies, sterling improved slightly, closing at 3.8090 (3.7980), in Deutschmark terms and making ground against the Swiss franc at 3.1390 (3.1350).

The dollar continued to be supported by high US interest rates.

MONEY MARKETS

The markets were notable for further firming up of the period, led by the longer end because of the release of the troubled pound. There was also concern about interest rates if next Tuesday's money supply figures do not show considerable improvement.

Operation of the day-to-day money proved dull. The Bank's initial forecast of a £350m shortage was eventually revised to £450m.

But total assistance amounted only to £299 - £189m in bill purchases at established intervention rates in the morning, a further £110m in the afternoon, then £90m.

Some houses paid up to 8 1/4 per cent during the morning. Rates reached 8 1/2 per cent before a late fall to 8 per cent.

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Injury forces heavily backed L'Orangerie out of Guineas

ASCOT
TRAINERS: H Cecil 37 wins from 116 runners 31.9%; G Harwood 29 from 119, 24.4%; W Hern 23 from 110, 20.9%.
JOCKEYS: L Pigott 86 wins from 273 rides, 20.0%; W Carson 46 from 224, 19.4%; B Swinburn 21 from 151, 13.9%.

CATTERICK
TRAINERS: W O'Gorman 9 wins from 34 runners 26.5%; M N Eastwood 9 from 34, 13.5%; E Wynn 8 from 33, 10.0%.

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CATTERICK
TRAINERS: W O'Gorman 9 wins from 34 runners 26.5%; M H Eastwell 9 from 26, 34.6%; E Wynn 9 from 23, 39.1%.

MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Cup: Peterborough United v Bournemouth (2.0).
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge United v Charlton (5.30)
Second division Cup: First: Wimbledon v Yeovil K&N.

German Olympic women's figure-skating champions in 1980 and 1984 are to become sisters-in-law.

11 000-0 UNCLE OLIVER W Pearce 6-10
13 000-3 MILL HOUSE LADY W Musson 6-7
16 0-000 STAR PATRICK D Chapman 6-7
17 000-6 VALDAMOSA T Kersey 6-7
8-4 Ganville Ltd, 11-4 Uncle Oliver, 7-2 Mill
Pal, 8 Quarrymen, 12 others.

7	04	HUNT T
7	330-0	RIGGS
10	00-00	SAMBO
12	04-4	WISE C
14		BROAD
8-11	Wise	Crown,
others.		

GOWK C H 8-9-0 Webster
Winter 9-0 T has
(J) Mason 8-0 G Dwyer
WIN L Curnutt 5-0 R Guest
NDS W Hargh 8-11 M Wood
Rigidsk. 10 Hunt The Gowk, 15 Culminate, 20

spring has already covered 25
marts. His latest was his former
stable companion, Kathred, who
went on to score emphatically at
Ripon four days later.

CATTERICK
TRAINERS: W O'Gorman 9 wins from 24 runners 37.5%; M H Easterby 10 from 24, 13.5%; E Wynn 9 from 22, 15.5%.
JOCKEYS: E Hyde 16 wins from 32, 17.2%; T Ives 13 from 28, 16.7%; S Perkins 11 from 28, 12.5%.

backed
Guineas

Pay talk
break down

Bath room

RACING

Redmead boosts French hopes

From Desmond Stoneham, French Racing Correspondent, Paris

The only French runner now bound for Newmarket is Boumifoul, who will contest the 2000 Guineas on Saturday. John Fellowes will give this colt his final breeze tomorrow morning and the colt will be sent to England on Friday.

Boumifoul was fourth behind Stovall Express, Green Paradise, and Mender in the recent Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2000 Guineas) and the colt had previously defeated Procidia in the Prix du Muguet and the Prix de la Pluie. In a gallop at Chantilly, Boumifoul last Wednesday, Procidia had easily accounted for the older Redmead.

Redmead was an absentee from the Prix du Muguet because of the firm ground and Pluralisme was then made favourite. African Joy set out to make all the running from Temmin, Monrovia, and Pluralisme, who took over halfway up the straight. Cash Amussen then shipped Redmead into top gear and the pair went on to win by a neck.

Francis Boutin, ambitious programme for Romulo.

Pluralisme ran on to take third place while Lester Piggott and Temmin faded to finish fourth.

Francis Boutin, Redmead's trainer, will run him next in the Prix Dollar at Longchamp on May 26. Boutin also said that Romulo, who won Sunday's Prix Ganay, would run next in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Ascot then the Eclipse and the Benson and Hedges.

On hearing the news that the Aga Khan's Vase had been backed in England for the Epsom Derby, Alain de Royer-Dupré commented: "Yes, this could be the colt's objective, but I prefer people to be cautious until he has run in the Prix on May 13."

Roy-Dupré's other top colt, Darshan, will run out for the Prix Hocquet at Longchamp on Sunday where among his many rivals will be Long Mick and Carriellor. Darshan was an impressive five-length winner of the Prix Credit.

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SAINT-CLOUD RESULT

PROX DU MUGUET (1m): 1. REDMEAD (C. Amussen); 2. African Joy (A. Gharib); 3. Pluralisme (H. Piggott); 4. Temmin (L. Piggott); 5. Lester Piggott; 6. Monrovia; 7. Cash Amussen; 8. Pluralisme; 9. African Joy; 10. Temmin; 11. Lester Piggott; 12. Monrovia; 13. Cash Amussen; 14. Pluralisme; 15. African Joy; 16. Temmin; 17. Lester Piggott; 18. Monrovia; 19. Cash Amussen; 20. Pluralisme; 21. African Joy; 22. Temmin; 23. Lester Piggott; 24. Monrovia; 25. Cash Amussen; 26. Pluralisme; 27. African Joy; 28. Temmin; 29. Lester Piggott; 30. Monrovia; 31. Cash Amussen; 32. Pluralisme; 33. African Joy; 34. Temmin; 35. Lester Piggott; 36. Monrovia; 37. Cash Amussen; 38. Pluralisme; 39. African Joy; 40. Temmin; 41. Lester Piggott; 42. Monrovia; 43. Cash Amussen; 44. Pluralisme; 45. African Joy; 46. Temmin; 47. Lester Piggott; 48. Monrovia; 49. Cash Amussen; 50. Pluralisme; 51. African Joy; 52. Temmin; 53. Lester Piggott; 54. Monrovia; 55. Cash Amussen; 56. Pluralisme; 57. African Joy; 58. Temmin; 59. Lester Piggott; 60. Monrovia; 61. Cash Amussen; 62. Pluralisme; 63. African Joy; 64. Temmin; 65. Lester Piggott; 66. Monrovia; 67. Cash Amussen; 68. Pluralisme; 69. African Joy; 70. Temmin; 71. Lester Piggott; 72. Monrovia; 73. Cash Amussen; 74. Pluralisme; 75. African Joy; 76. Temmin; 77. Lester Piggott; 78. Monrovia; 79. Cash Amussen; 80. Pluralisme; 81. African Joy; 82. Temmin; 83. Lester Piggott; 84. Monrovia; 85. Cash Amussen; 86. Pluralisme; 87. African Joy; 88. Temmin; 89. Lester Piggott; 90. Monrovia; 91. Cash Amussen; 92. Pluralisme; 93. African Joy; 94. Temmin; 95. Lester Piggott; 96. Monrovia; 97. Cash Amussen; 98. Pluralisme; 99. African Joy; 100. Temmin; 101. Lester Piggott; 102. Monrovia; 103. Cash Amussen; 104. Pluralisme; 105. African Joy; 106. Temmin; 107. Lester Piggott; 108. Monrovia; 109. Cash Amussen; 110. Pluralisme; 111. African Joy; 112. Temmin; 113. Lester Piggott; 114. Monrovia; 115. Cash Amussen; 116. Pluralisme; 117. African Joy; 118. Temmin; 119. 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Cash Amussen; 1100. Pluralisme; 1101. African Joy; 1102. Temmin; 1103. Lester Piggott; 1104. Monrovia; 1105. Cash Amussen; 1106. Pluralisme; 1107. African Joy; 1108. Temmin; 1109. Lester Piggott; 1110. Monrovia; 1111. Cash Amussen; 1112. Pluralisme; 1113. African Joy; 1114. Temmin; 1115. Lester Piggott; 1116. Monrovia; 1117. Cash Amussen; 1118. Pluralisme; 1119. African Joy; 1120. Temmin; 1121. Lester Piggott; 1122. Monrovia; 1123. Cash Amussen; 1124. Pluralisme; 1125. African Joy; 1126. Temmin; 1127. Lester Piggott; 1128. Monrovia; 1129. Cash Amussen; 1130. Pluralisme; 1131. African Joy; 1132. Temmin; 1133. Lester Piggott; 1134. Monrovia; 1135. Cash Amussen; 1136. Pluralisme; 1137. African Joy; 1138. Temmin; 1139. Lester Piggott; 1140. Monrovia; 1141. Cash Amussen; 1142. Pluralisme; 1143. African Joy; 1144. Temmin; 1145. Lester Piggott; 1146. Monrovia; 1147. Cash Amussen; 1148. Pluralisme; 1149. African Joy; 1150. Temmin; 1151. Lester Piggott; 1152. Monrovia; 1153. Cash Amussen; 1154. Pluralisme; 1155. African Joy; 1156. Temmin; 1157. Lester Piggott; 1158. Monrovia; 1159. Cash Amussen; 1160. Pluralisme; 1161. African Joy; 1162. Temmin; 1163. Lester Piggott; 1164. Monrovia; 1165. Cash Amussen; 1166. Pluralisme; 1167. African Joy; 1168. Temmin; 1169. Lester Piggott; 1170. Monrovia; 1171. Cash Amussen; 1172. Pluralisme; 1173. African Joy; 1174. Temmin; 1175. Lester Piggott; 1176. Monrovia; 1177. Cash Amussen; 1178. Pluralisme; 1179. African Joy; 1180. Temmin; 1181. Lester Piggott; 1182. Monrovia; 1183. Cash Amussen; 1184. Pluralisme; 1185. African Joy; 1186. Temmin; 1187. Lester Piggott; 1188. Monrovia; 1189. Cash Amussen; 1190. Pluralisme; 1191. African Joy; 1192. Temmin; 1193. Lester Piggott; 1194. Monrovia; 1195. Cash Amussen; 1196. Pluralisme; 1197. African Joy; 1198. Temmin; 1199. Lester Piggott; 1200. Monrovia; 1201. Cash Amussen; 1202. Pluralisme; 1203. African Joy; 1204. Temmin; 1205. Lester Piggott; 1206. Monrovia; 1207. 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Minimum qualifications: 3 'O' levels (grade A to C) or equivalent, including English Language. Technical skills of 30 wpm typing, 100 wpm shorthand and/or proficiency in office transcription.

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Tel: 01-580 6655 ext. 262.
Closing date: 18 May 1984.



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Further particulars and application forms available from Miss Mary Gard, Agricultural and Food Research Council, 168 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6DT.
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PLUS SECRETARIES

MANAGING DIRECTOR £10 - £11,000

Top level PA with a professional approach, impeccable shorthand/typing skills and preferably 'A' level education is required for the M.D. of one of our leading public companies. Good benefits.

NO SHORTHAND £9,000

Your administrative duties are running the offices of an environmental research and advisory company in W1. As PA to the deputy M.D. you need audio skills to cope with the correspondence. Good benefits.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE £10,000

Your diverse attributes - which include social skills coupled with a practical approach, good shorthand and typing, 'A' level education and the ability to thrive under pressure - will all be called upon as PA to the chief executive of a major international bank. Age late 20s - Mortgage subsidy etc. offered.

MARKETING £9,000

A lively mix of recruitment & administration is envisaged as secretary to the marketing director of an expanding computer software firm in W1. Fast shorthand essential.

377 8600 CITY

438 7001 WEST END

Secretaries Plus
The Secretarial Consultants

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TEMPORARY STAFF

£10,000 - £13,000

Success breeds success and Reed Employment is the driving force in the 1984 temporary services market. The expansion of our high quality service, developed in response to our clients' needs, requires two additional personnel in Greater London. You will be responsible for your own section of the Reed temporary labour force and for making potential clients aware of the Reed service. Your initiative, energy and professional communication skills will be utilised to the full and the earnings package reflects your individual effort and your track record in providing temporary services.

If you can't beat us, join us!
Interviews are held at times to suit you, outside normal working hours as necessary.

Apply to Alec Reed, Managing Director,
Reed Employment Limited,
181 Victoria Street, London, SW1 5NE.
Tel: 01-247 6931 (01-247 9431-24 hour service).

SECRETARY/PAs

Can You Write a Good Business Letter?

Small friendly office of Japanese Oil Company in the City, urgently need experienced Secretary/PA with particular talent for transcribing our "Japanese English" into "English Successful applicant will enjoy sole responsibility for assisting staff. 'A' level or above, general secretarial skills, shorthand preferred, willingness to do some overtime (paid), operate telex machine/switchboard (no previous required). Salary £8,300 plus L.Vs.

Write with CV immediately to:

Mr Y YOKOTE
Japan Oil Development Co Ltd
1-2 Finsbury Square,
London EC2A 1AJ

Secretarial/Administrative Assistants

Two secretarial/administrative assistants are required to work at the Royal College of Nursing. One of the above posts will be of a temporary nature to cover a staff member's absence on maternity leave. Employment will commence in May and will last for a maximum period until January 1985.

The duties for both posts involve servicing committees, working parties and organising conferences. Applicants should have a degree or equivalent professional qualification, excellent shorthand and typing skills and previous relevant experience. Salary £7,845-£8,325 per annum.

For further details and an application form write to the Principal Personnel Officer, The Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB or telephone 01-493 3333 Ext. 344. Closing date for return of applications: 11th May 1984.

MOORFIELDS EYE HOSPITAL

CITY ROAD, LONDON EC1V 2PD

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

We are looking for someone, possibly a graduate interested in a career with the NHS, with secretarial and personal skills. Motivation, initiative, common sense and very possibly PM 3, to continue running our small Personnel Department which was set up last September. Although we cannot offer a very high salary the great benefit is Higher Grade pay (£5,729 - £8,712 inclusive of London weighting) we can offer rewards of job satisfaction and diverse day to day challenges.

If you think that you could do all this and very much more in the way of running a busy personnel office, please contact Miss Janet Verrier on 01-251 8554 for an initial discussion or write for an application form and job description to Miss J Verrier, Personnel Department, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD. Closing date for receipt of application forms Friday 18th May 1984.

MARKETING

Have you the flair and drive to work for a dynamic Director who is involved with marketing of products in the U.S. He appreciates a secretary who will be expected to communicate with him at all levels and possess excellent secretarial skills. Please apply in writing giving full details to: Mrs E. E. Carr, Rose & Partners (Secretaries) Ltd, 1 Finsbury Sq., EC2A 1AD.

WHISKY MAC

That, diplomacy and charm are the ingredients when working for the M.D. of the world famous Whisky Mac. As a secretary you will be expected to communicate with him at all levels and possess excellent secretarial skills. Please apply in writing giving full details to: Mrs E. E. Carr, Rose & Partners (Secretaries) Ltd, 1 Finsbury Sq., EC2A 1AD.

BOND ST. BUREAU

22 South Molton St. W1
(Rec Cons)
629 3582 629 5580

Start From Scratch

£9,500

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an articulate, enthusiastic and enthusiastic PA to establish and run the London Office of a Texas based oil exploration company. This will be a small office, so you should be self motivated and enjoy using your initiative and taking responsibility. Excellent benefits will be given, although typing ability is essential. Salary A£E would suit graduates. Non-smoker preferred. Please write enclosing cv to Miss Judy Davis, Personnel & Administration Manager, Olympic Holdings Ltd, 17 Old Court Place, Kensington High Street, London W8 4PL.

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT IN TRAVEL

Olympic holidays - Britain's leading specialist tour operator is seeking a dynamic, enthusiastic and motivated individual to join the customer relations department from 1st June to 31st November. Applicants should be enthusiastic, self-motivated, capable of working with the minimum of supervision and able to cope with seasonal pressures of the job. Own competence will be put to use in a small office, so you should be self-motivated and enjoy using your initiative and taking responsibility. Excellent benefits will be given, although typing ability is essential. Salary A£E would suit graduates. Non-smoker preferred. Please write enclosing cv to Miss Judy Davis, Personnel & Administration Manager, Olympic Holdings Ltd, 17 Old Court Place, Kensington High Street, London W8 4PL.

CRONE CORKILL

21 Beauchamp Place SW3
Tel: 01-581 2977

GRAND HOTEL

A major 5 star hotel seeks a Guest Liaison Secretary. Your duties will be to act very much as a PR for the hotel with constant liaison with guests to make their stay as comfortable as possible. You should be well presented with experience preferably of a 5 star hotel. Excellent benefits include a free lunch, 65 wpm typing ability required.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
8 Grosvenor Street London W1
Telephone 01-499 8070

AUDIO SECRETARY

£8,200 p.a.
(Review July)

EniChem SECRETARY

Multinational Chemical Company

Isleworth

ENI Chemicals is a European-based multinational chemical concern with an annual sales turnover of £2.5 billion. The Company also has manufacturing plants in the UK and operates through a network of sales offices in Western Europe.

The UK Southern Region Sales Manager is currently seeking a high calibre Secretary to work in the Sales Department.

Responsibilities will include providing secretarial support to the key personnel in the Southern Region Sales force. Excellent secretarial skills are essential and applicants should be well organised and motivated to deal with this challenging position. A good working knowledge of Italian would be an asset but is not essential.

Please reply with c.v. to:

Susan Arnold,
Eni Chemical (UK) Ltd.,
John Bush House,
277 London Road, Isleworth,
Middlesex TW7 5AX

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES REQUIRED

An international catering company with offices in Mayfair requires two executive secretaries.

Successful applicants must have shorthand/typing speeds of 100/60 good educational background and a working knowledge of French would be an advantage.

Your duties will include maintaining a comprehensive filing system and must be able to use own initiative. We offer an attractive salary, £9,000 - £9,500, private medical insurance and L.V.s.

Please write with C.V. to:

Miss D. Russell
ABELA MANAGEMENT SERVICES S.A.
4/6 Savile Row, London, W1X 1AF

KNIGHTSBRIDGE c £9,000

Intelligent, discreet PA (27-35) with legal and good at typing and to assist in the running of a busy office. Must be able to use own initiative. We offer an attractive salary, £9,000 - £9,500, private medical insurance and L.V.s.

Please write with C.V. to:

Miss D. Russell
ABELA MANAGEMENT SERVICES S.A.
4/6 Savile Row, London, W1X 1AF

SECRETARY/PA

£8,000 negotiable

The Managing Director of an established Management Consultancy firm dealing with highly confidential business appointments needs a Secretary/PA with a good telephone manner and organisational skills. Fast, accurate shorthand typing essential. Word processor experience desirable. Small busy pleasant West End office.

Please ring Caroline Bond on 01-839 2561 (no agencies)

TWO AT THE TOP

Vice President £10,000

Well-known international figure on the showbiz scene, seeks a professional secretary 30-40 who enjoys looking after an entrepreneur who travels frequently in Europe. French an asset speaks 100/60.

Boardroom

Top executive in major British company seeks a Secretary/PA with a good telephone manner and organisational skills. Fast, accurate shorthand typing essential. Word processor experience desirable. Small busy pleasant West End office.

BERKELEY APPOINTMENTS

Savile Row, London W1X 1AE
01-434 3576

Truly Bilingual

(English/French)
£8,500-£9,500

Senior Executive (Sales & Marketing) with a proven track record in the pharmaceutical industry. Must be fluent in English and French. Excellent benefits and pension scheme. Please apply in writing to: The Personnel Executive (London) Daks Simpson Ltd, 34 Jermyn St, SW1

SECRETARY FOR

Daks Simpson Ltd

To work in Customer Services Department. Candidates should be fluent in French and German have good Secretarial skills and a minimum of 4 years Commercial experience. Excellent conditions of employment. Please write with details of education and experience to:

The Personnel Executive (London) Daks Simpson Ltd, 34 Jermyn St, SW1

BRIGHT, SMART RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

Required by May 14th for our W1 Company to receive our visitors and handle all incoming calls on PABX 7

Hours 9.30 - 6.00 pm
Please call Karen Lindley on 439 7111 to arrange an interview

also on page 21

Overseas Property

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From £11500 - £120000

We have a wide selection of properties both new & resale in this beautiful part of Spain, including plots, apartments, town houses, bungalows & luxury villas. Visit Javea with its rocky coves, golden beaches, marina, golf course, & every possible facility. For further details contact:

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Ashford Road, Faversham,
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VACATION VILLAS

SOUTHERN SPAIN

MARBELLA TO BEYOND GIBRALTAR

Fincasol invite you to a presentation of selected properties -

Coastal apartments, pueblo houses etc. from £20,000 to over £200,000

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See us at The Churchill Hotel

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THE PROPERTY EXPERTS IN SOUTHERN SPAIN

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SWITZERLAND ATTENTION FOREIGNERS

On May 28th it will be decided by referendum whether or not foreigners may continue to purchase apartments and chalets in Switzerland. It is very likely that after that date they will no longer be available for foreigners, except for the limited projects previously authorized. We still have a number of apartments and chalets on Lake Geneva and in the mountains available for foreigners. Prices from Sfr. 125,000 with liberal mortgages at 6.5% interest. Money spent deposit most refund guaranteed if purchase

Country Property

[illegible]

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Lee

BBC 1

6.00 **Crest** AM. News, sport, weather, travel notes on television.

6.30 **Breakfast** Time. Frank Bough and Selina Scott (with the news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15, 8.45, 9.15, 9.45; morning papers 7.15, 7.45; the new Top Twenty at 7.55).

8.00 **Belany on Botany**. David Bellany follows the evolutionary path of the primrose. (9.25 **Crest**. 10.30 **Play School** (1) 10.55 **Gharbar**. Asian women's magazine. 11.20 **Crest**.

12.30 **News**, weather with Richard Whitmore. 12.57 **Financial Review** and news headlines on television. 1.00 **Play School** (2).

1.00 **Pebble Mill at One**. Naughton and his friends. 1.15 **Tom Kitchinson's** assessment of David Niven's Hollywood career.

1.45 **Cartoon**. Story narrated by Patrick Hayes (1) 1.50 **Stop-Glo**. Also for toddlers. 2.00 **Dropy**. MGM cartoon.

2.15 **Racing from Ascot** covers the 2.30, 3.05 and 3.40 races. 3.55 **Play School**. With Fred Harris. 4.30 **The Peasants of Penelope** (Pittop) (1). 4.40 **Tea Time**. Junior Points of View returns with a new presenter in Josephine Buchanan (her grandfather John wrote *The 39 Steps*). Swallows and Amazons Forever is among the programmes discussed by critical youngsters.

5.05 **Newsweek**. With Paul McDowell. 5.10 **Breakfast**. Serial about world tennis stars (1).

6.40 **Sixty Minutes** begins with the new: when weather at 6.54, regional magazines at 6.55, closing headlines at 6.58.

6.40 **The Best of Torville and Dean**. Career highlights of Britain's ice queen and her partner. 6.50 **The Victoria and Albert Museum** through four world championship seasons. Includes the Mack and Mabel, Barnum and Bozart routines.

7.30 **Film: Rio Lobo** (1970) Civil War western with the young John Wayne. The cowboy who has been previously made *Rio Bravo* with rugged star John Wayne. In 1959, (Wayne also filmed *Rio Grande* with John Ford in 1950). The cowboy who has been previously made *Rio Bravo* with rugged star John Wayne. In 1959, (Wayne also filmed *Rio Grande* with John Ford in 1950).

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tv-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain**. Nick Owen and John Sheehan live news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00; sport at 8.35, 9.00; pop video at 7.55; Magic Moments with Joyce Blair, at 8.15; Eve Pollard's showbiz gossip at 8.35.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames News Headlines**. 9.30 **For Schoolers**. Zulu Dawn. 9.47 **Home and Family**. 10.04 **Roman Invaders** (1) 10.10 **Nuclear Issues** (1) 10.50 **The reproductive system**. 11.10 **Nature in spring and summer** (1) 11.22 **Basic Maths**. 11.40 **History Around You**.

11.55 **Wobbe-Wobbe**. 12.00 **At the Movies**. The Trumpet. 12.05 **Round 1 Like a Story**. The Lion and the Mouse. 12.30 **The Sultans**.

1.00 **News**, weather. 1.20 **Thames News**. 1.30 **A Plus**. Gill Nevill in the near East (Lowestoft, actually) investigates enlightened management of the Far East at a Japanese-run factory.

2.00 **Take the High Road**. 2.30 **A Country Doctor**. 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**. 4.00 **At the Music** (1) 4.15 **Aubrey**. 4.20 **Lady**. The wheelchair-bound private eye falls foul of illegal immigrant racketeers. 4.30 **Newsweek**.

4.30 **The Queen at the Garden Festival**. Highlights of the royal opening of the International Garden Festival. 5.45 **News**, weather. 6.00 **Thames News**. 6.25 **Help!** How adults of all ages are entitled to further education.

6.35 **Crossroads**. Mavis makes husband Sid feel that small. 7.00 **The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady**. The entries this week meander between October 1906 and 1913, as the nature-loving Edith Holden (played by Pippa Guard) reflects on the family's last lingering days at Gowan Bank and her move to London with husband Ernest. Not much gossip concerning them.

7.30 **Concert**. Will Vera their machinist and sew sewing mail bags? 8.00 **The British Beauty Championships**. Lofly-titled beauty contest not only packs its 15 finalists off to Malta just to parade in their swimming costumes, but then has them compete in a "Beauty on Wheels" car rally against the clock, thereby adding the possibility of injury to insult. Crooner Tony Monopoly, who provides the cabaret, once, I believe, helped America by becoming a monk, Judith Chalmers and Peter Marshall pretend it's an event at the Royal Theatre in London.

9.00 **My Pathway to Westminster**. Alec McCowen's phantasmagoric journey better than to judge a book, never mind a bookman, by its cover when a celebrated Soviet novelist (Julian Glover) seeks to defend the Conservatives.

10.00 **Party Political Broadcast** by the Conservatives. 10.05 **News at Ten**, and **Thames News Headlines**. 10.35 **Film: View at First Bite** (1979). Another Christmas comedy, had it not been for Robert Kaufman's affectionately tongue-in-cheek script and George Hamilton's thankfulness to the world, just another day in the life of a New York City. Susan Saint James is a model he'd like to share his casket with, Arlo Johnson is his Munsterish manservant Ramfield. His success here inspired Hamilton to make an equally admirable Zorro spoof.

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Sir John Gielgud (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

BBC 2

6.05 **Open University: 17th Century Navigation**. 6.55 **Nobody's Friend**. 7.20 **Mendelsson's Dream**. 7.45 **Porphyry Copper Deposits**. 8.10 **Closing down**.

10.25 **World Snooker and Racing from Ascot**. The chalk deposits grow at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. Racing begins at 2.00 with the first flat race of the year. Then coverage switches to BBC1.

5.10 **Special Needs in Education**. Open University study of how the school system copes with receptive aphasia, a language disorder.

5.35 **News summary and weather**. 5.40 **Cartoon Town**. 6.00 **Peasants of Penelope**. 6.30 **At the Music** (1) 6.45 **Aubrey**. 4.20 **Lady**. The wheelchair-bound private eye falls foul of illegal immigrant racketeers. 4.30 **Newsweek**.

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CHANNEL 4

5.00 **Countdown**. Daily word game. 5.30 **Great Walls**. Shod with sturdy boots, armed with Ordnance Survey map and accompanied by Elgar, three youngsters escape out over the Malvern Hills on the first of six televised and highly scenic countryside walks. But it's all a bit too easy, with drollers of local folklore at the start of each walk, including an inspiring description of Caracacus that has him "an ace bloke, a really good guy". A more inspired director would have provided a few graphics to show us where we are from time to time. Television, for all its visual virtues, is not a good participant in the history of the British Isles. Using the Mickey. Series on immigration through the ages examines the historically uneasy relationship between the English and the Irish (see *Crest*).

6.30 **Deley Thompson's Bodyshop**. Sight of the week - Dame Edna Everage in bright pink tights, rainbow leg-warmers and a black and white striped top. Engaging in PT with the hunky delectable: "Is there any little muscle you've got, Daley, that you've sent a message to and it hasn't taken any notice of?"

7.00 **Channel 4 News**. 7.50 **Comment**. By Winifred Ewing of the Scottish National Party. 8.00 **Brookside**. Domestic harmony is restored. 8.30 **Diverse Reports** promise a hard-hitting piece on the undercover operations of the British Military Intelligence in Northern Ireland. Christopher Hird and Duncan Campbell fear that innocent civilians have suffered.

9.00 **Six Centuries of Verse**. Chaucer and T. S. Eliot are at either end of the tapestry woven for this elegant celebration of English-language poetry, delivered by a distinguished company led by Sir John Gielgud. Among those reciting against the backdrop of a series of paintings in this sampler are Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Ian Richardson, Cyril Cusack (late Yemassee) and Lee Remick (Emily Dickinson).

9.30 **Film: Mouth to Mouth** (1978). Committed contemporary film about a young man who follows the unlawful adventures of two errant teenagers and their boyfriends as they make out in winter Melbourne. Kim Krejci, Sonia Past, George Frazzetto and Ian Gilmore are the young squatters.

11.20 **Voices**. All Thought - Intellectuals in the Age of Uncertainty is tonight's nightcap from Edward Said and fellow thinkers Julia Kristeva, Roger Caillois, David Caute, Raymond Williams and Ray Pahl.

12.20 **Jan Breakwell's Continuous Diary**. Ends 12.30.

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CHOICE

Cannon, where they make you feel four feet tall. "This galloway humour designed to make us understand, not just laugh."

● Murphy's double-edged welcome, turned against him, could not be more appropriate in the context of *PASSAGE TO BRITAIN* (Channel 4, 8.00pm). This week's dip into the melting pot produces an Irish story that has been thickened for centuries, thanks to heavy-handed stirring by generations of scornful Englishmen. During the industrial revolution, Irish immigrants were received with open arms to help build roads, railways and canals. But they also became the butt of a national humour and the victims of a strangely lasting prejudice. David Cohen's well-illustrated

documentary reminds us that Sheridan, Shaw and Wilde defied the thick Mick stereotype, while psychiatrist Anthony Clare, another Irishman who has enriched English culture, adds that "Irish jokes reveal an insecurity which the Irish in Britain have no reason to fear. 'What they do fear, however, is a backlash against Irish attitudes on the mainland.'"

● Unable to reform the reform schools, states commissioner Jerome Miller closed most of them down. *THE MASSACHUSETTS ALTERNATIVE* (Radio 4, 8.15pm) was to send the juvenile delinquents back home. This fascinating report studies the effects of the short, sharp shock to the system. It has been merely brutalised offenders, then listens to Dr Miller being cross-examined by a British panel of those involved in juvenile law.

● Checkpoint with Roger Cook. 7.45 **At the Movies**. *Roman Road* - The Court of Many Weathers. Newcastle to Musselburgh. The 'last man' is Tom Vernon (1).

8.15 **The Massachusetts Alternative**. Key figures in the British juvenile justice system discuss an experiment which began in the state of Massachusetts in the early 1970s. Most of its large youth custody institutions were closed down. Reform, it was hoped, would come from experimenting with alternatives to the existing system. Among those taking part is Dr Jerome Miller, who was the State Commissioner of the Department of Corrections.

10.15 **A Book at Bedtime**. 'Naples 44' by Norman. 10.30 **The World Tonight**. Headlines. 11.15 **The Financial World Tonight**. 12.00 **News**. 12.15 **Shipping forecast**.

ENGLAND: VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30 Weather; travel 1.55-2.00pm. Listening Centre 5.50-5.55pm. 7.00 **World News**. 7.15 **World News**. 7.30 **World News**. 7.45 **World News**. 8.00 **World News**. 8.15 **World News**. 8.30 **World News**. 8.45 **World News**. 9.00 **World News**. 9.15 **World News**. 9.30 **World News**. 9.45 **World News**. 10.00 **World News**. 10.15 **World News**. 10.30 **World News**. 10.45 **World News**. 11.00 **World News**. 11.15 **World News**. 11.30 **World News**. 11.45 **World News**. 12.00 **World News**. 12.15 **World News**. 12.30 **World News**. 12.45 **World News**. 1.00 **World News**. 1.15 **World News**. 1.30 **World News**. 1.45 **World News**. 2.00 **World News**. 2.15 **World News**. 2.30 **World News**. 2.45 **World News**. 3.00 **World News**. 3.15 **World News**. 3.30 **World News**. 3.45 **World News**. 4.00 **World News**. 4.15 **World News**. 4.30 **World News**. 4.45 **World News**. 5.00 **World News**. 5.15 **World News**. 5.30 **World News**. 5.45 **World News**. 6.00 **World News**. 6.15 **World News**. 6.30 **World News**. 6.45 **World News**. 7.00 **World News**. 7.15 **World News**. 7.30 **World News**. 7.45 **World News**. 8.00 **World News**. 8.15 **World News**. 8.30 **World News**. 8.45 **World News**. 9.00 **World News**. 9.15 **World News**. 9.30 **World News**. 9.45 **World News**. 10.00 **World News**. 10.15 **World News**. 10.30 **World News**. 10.45 **World News**. 11.00 **World News**. 11.15 **World News**. 11.30 **World News**. 11.45 **World News**. 12.00 **World News**. 12.15 **World News**. 12.30 **World News**. 12.45 **World News**. 1.00 **World News**. 1.15 **World News**. 1.30 **World News**. 1.45 **World News**. 2.00 **World News**. 2.15 **World News**. 2.30 **World News**. 2.45 **World News**. 3.00 **World News**. 3.15 **World News**. 3.30 **World News**. 3.45 **World News**. 4.00 **World News**. 4.15 **World News**. 4.30 **World News**. 4.45 **World News**. 5.00 **World News**. 5.15 **World News**. 5.30 **World News**. 5

Miner accuses miner as militant moderates besiege strikers



Man in the middle: Mr Ray Chadburn, the Nottinghamshire miners' leader, speaking at the Mansfield NUM headquarters, where strikers (left) and workers (right) staged rival demonstrations

Thousands of pitmen clash in rival demonstrations

Continued from page 1

when police stopped miners' cars on the A38 on the Derbyshire border and stones were thrown.

About 1,000 police were involved in controlling the two demonstrations and they lined up three deep to keep the two sides apart as union officials claimed that the strikers were being starved back to work.

The non-striking miners thronged behind a wire fence of a park only 50 yards from the Union building and some stones were hurled from each side. A bicycle chain thrown from the balcony narrowly missed a policeman and later a miner behind the fence was seen being led away with blood streaming from a head wound. Banners were waved; insults, jeers and abuse were offered by both sides in a crescendo of sound, but police said there were no arrests.

The non-striking rally was organized after repeated attempts by the frustrated area executive to get all the men to join the strike, and visits by Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, to implore them to stop work.

In an area ballot however, the Nottinghamshire men voted by about three to one against striking and area delegates voted by almost the same margin to work normally until a national ballot was held.

The Nottinghamshire coalfield is now seen as crucial to the union's dispute strategy as its 25 pits represent most of those working normally in the country. None of the striking miners believes that mass picketing will again be tried to get them to stop work.

Mr Chadburn and Mr Richardson arrived on the balcony of the union building crowded with their chanting supporters to chants of "Resign" and jeers and boos from the park below.

Leaders of the anti-strike demonstrators were given a police escort to address their supporters from the headquarters balcony. Mr Colin Bottomore, branch secretary at Bantock colliery told the cheering crowd: "Nottinghamshire men want a ballot and Nottinghamshire will not strike without a ballot."

After the rally, striking miners claimed that the coal board had encouraged men still

working to take a rest day so that they could join the anti-strike rally, and claimed also that coal board buses had been used to ferry the men to the rally.

The coal board said it was up to the miners when they took a rest day, and denied that it had anything to do with the rally, or getting to it.

● The port of Wivenhoe in north-east Essex was brought to a halt yesterday when more than 100 miners and Essex University students blocked the entrance to the wharf where coal from Europe is being unloaded. There were 69 arrests.

● Britain's second largest union is to urge the TUC to call a day of action in support of the strike. The "May Day" resolution was carried unanimously yesterday by the 52-member National Committee of the engineering section of the million-strong Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

● Hampshire Police have chartered a Boeing 737 to fly 120 officers to picket lines in the Nottinghamshire coalfields.

Letters, page 11



Faces of conflict: Non-striking miners surge at a fence and a working pitman's head bleeds (Photographs: Brian Harris)

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh open the International Garden Festival, Liverpool, 11.30; and later open the new Liverpool Court House, 3.

The Duke of Edinburgh as President of the World Wildlife Fund International, visits Austria; departs Heathrow, 8.35.

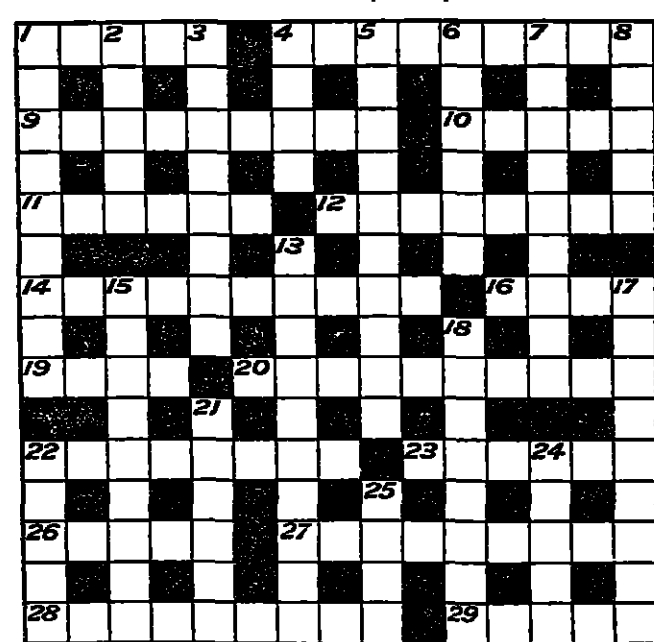
Princess Anne attends the Annual Conference of the Royal British Legion Women's Section at the Opera House, Winter Gardens, Blackpool, Lancs, 2.30.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, Queen's Own Hussars, attends the presentation of the Colours to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Hussars, at the Caledonian Club, 7.30.

Princess Margaret attends a Reception given by the Air League at Martini Terrace, New Zealand.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,419

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 7 per cent of the competitors at this year's Glasgow regional final of the Collins Dictionary Times Crossword Championship.



ACROSS

- Women could be this silent of old (5).
- Mad to return with mistress, a horse type (9).
- Dinosaur gives us one fertiliser to put on (9).
- Stop sly fellow swallowing a litre (5).
- Loophole with watch stoppage (6).
- Bobby's even tread (8).
- Adopted particular condition the Football Association backed (10).
- Hudson female rejected by this prince (14).
- Weaver may appear in threatening form (4).
- Girl, a dry one, finished alone (10).
- Drunken Tom - he was, rather (8).
- Genuine Australian (6).
- Short cut out of Battersea (5).
- A Mrs Copperfield - maybe not one for worship (9).
- Revolutionaries who were certainly not believers (9).
- 50-50, new style, follows late PM (5).

DOWN

- The will - ah, possibly this is the way of it (9).
- Ruin, ruin - a point to take effect (5).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

New Books - Hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

Authors by Profession, Volume two 1911-81, by Victor Bonham-Carter (The Bodley Head, £12.50).
Casement, the Flawed Hero, by Roger Sawyer (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £12.50).
Finding the Centre, by V. S. Naipaul (Andre Deutsch, £7.95).
Michelangelo, his Life, Work, and Times, by Linda Murray (Thames & Hudson, £18).
Roman Britain, by Plantagenet Somerset Fry (David & Charles, £14.95).
Six Centuries of Verse, selected and introduced by Anthony Thwaite (Methuen, £12.50, paperback £4.95).
The Abyss, a novel by Marguerite Yourcenar, translated by Grace Frick and the author (Aldus, £8.95).
The Haunted Mind, by H. L. Tennyson (Andre Deutsch, £12.95).
The Lords of Limit, Essays on Literature and Ideas, by Geoffrey Hill (Andre Deutsch, £12.95).
The Week's Vessel, Woman's Lot in Seventeenth Century England, by Antonia Fraser (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95).

PH

Roads

London and South-east: A402: Eastbound traffic reduced to a single lane W of junction with B217 Southampton Lane, Peckham. Westbound: Nearside northbound lane occupied in Regent Street, junction A11 Street, A410: Roadworks at Uxbridge Road, Stanmore. Midlands and East Angles: A12: Contraflow on Ipswich to Colchester Road, Bentley, Suffolk. A38: Diversion via roundabout at Weston, Suffolk. A4175: Temporary traffic lights at Kingswood, Bath Road, Bath, Avon. A370: Kerbing at Backwell, Bristol to Congresbury Road, Bristol. North: Temporary traffic signals and single lane traffic on Shaw Road, Oldham; Arnold Street closed. M6: Delays on the northbound carriageway between junctions 41 and 44, Cumbria. A691/A692: Roadworks on Leadenby Pass, Co. Durham. A41: Delays at Christleton Mill and Great Broughton, Chester. South-east: A907: Single lane traffic controlled by lights, West of Kirkcaldy, Fife. A92: Single lane traffic with lights on South Road, Cupar, Fife. A85: Lights on Riverside Drive at Dundee Airport. Information supplied by AA.

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